Champion
RED Comics
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シグルイ

12

原作 南條範夫
「駿河城御前試合」より
漫画 山口貴由

shigurui

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しぐるい

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人妻

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この作品はフィクションであり、
実在の個人・団体等にはいっさい関係ありません。

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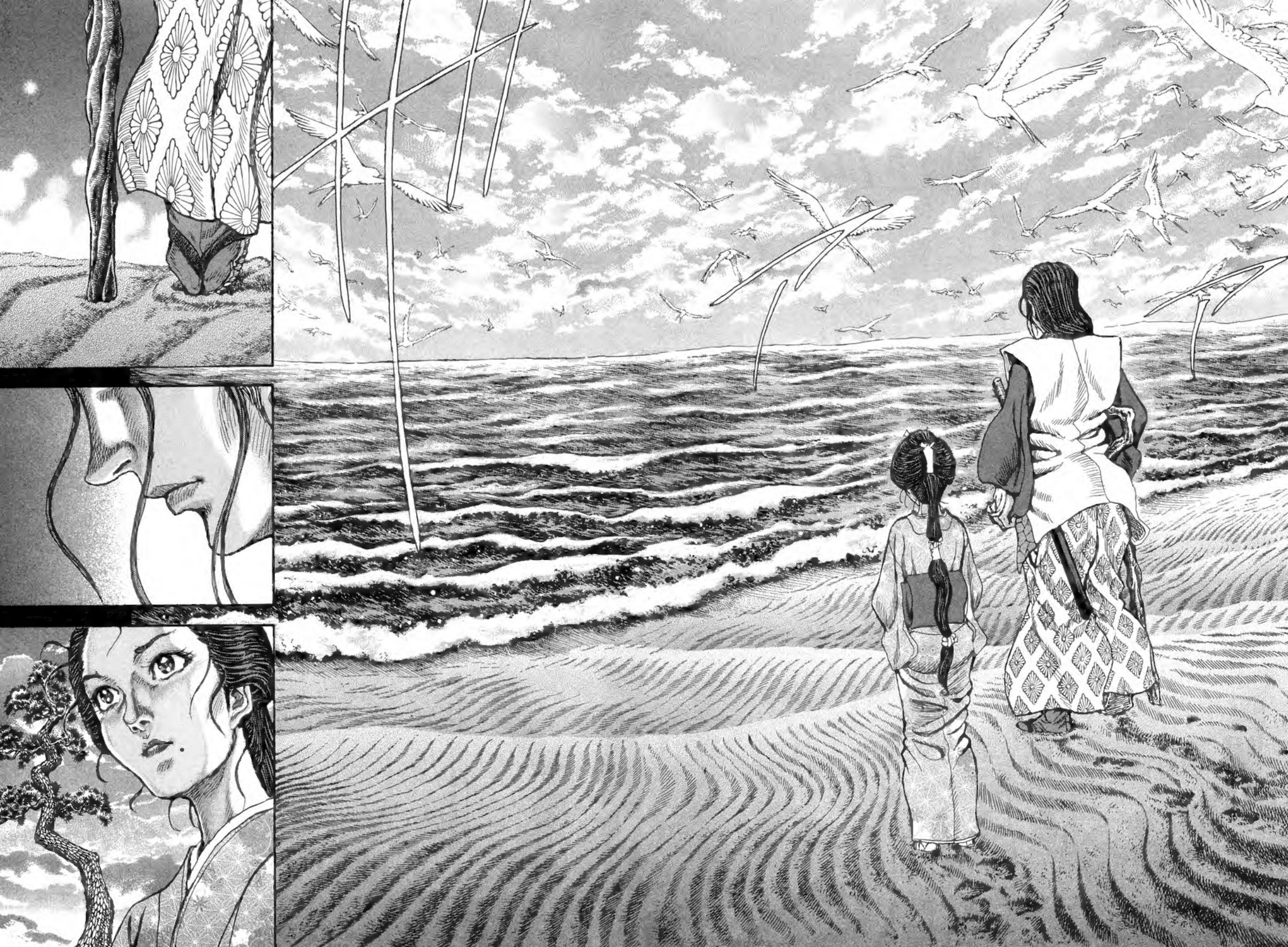
CHAPTER 60
COUPLE



YES.

THEY SAY FUJIKI GENNOSUKE IS LIVING IN A SHACK.

IT IS REMARKABLE.

I suppose I will never encounter them again.

THEIR SHAME ONLY INCREASES MY REPUTATION.

THEY USED TO SAY "BEAUTIFY AN OPPONENT AND SEND HIM HOME."

IRAKO SEIGEN WAS WELCOMED WITH GREAT HOSPITALITY BY TOKUGAWA TADANAGA.

HIS GLORIOUS FUTURE AS A SWORDS-MAN WAS ASSURED.

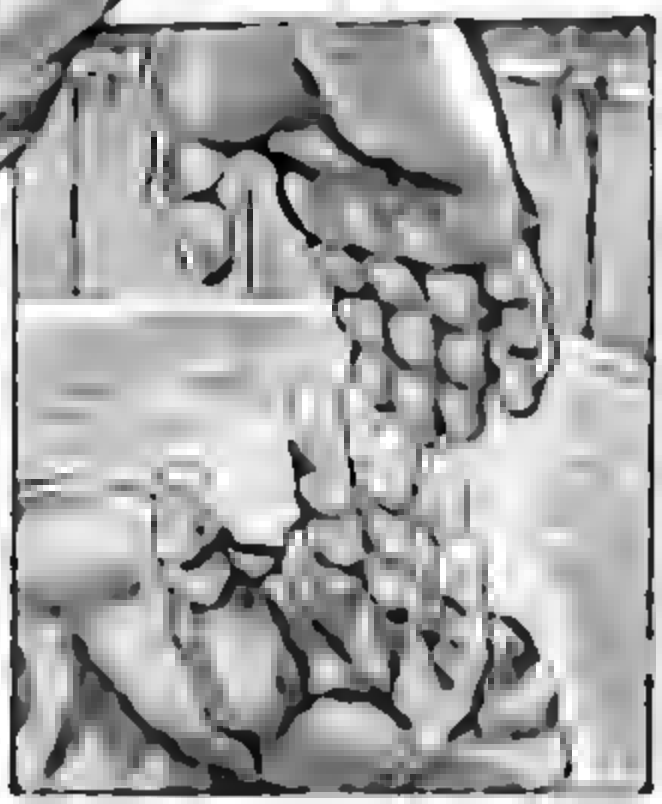
THE TWO WARIORS SERVING AS ESCORTS,

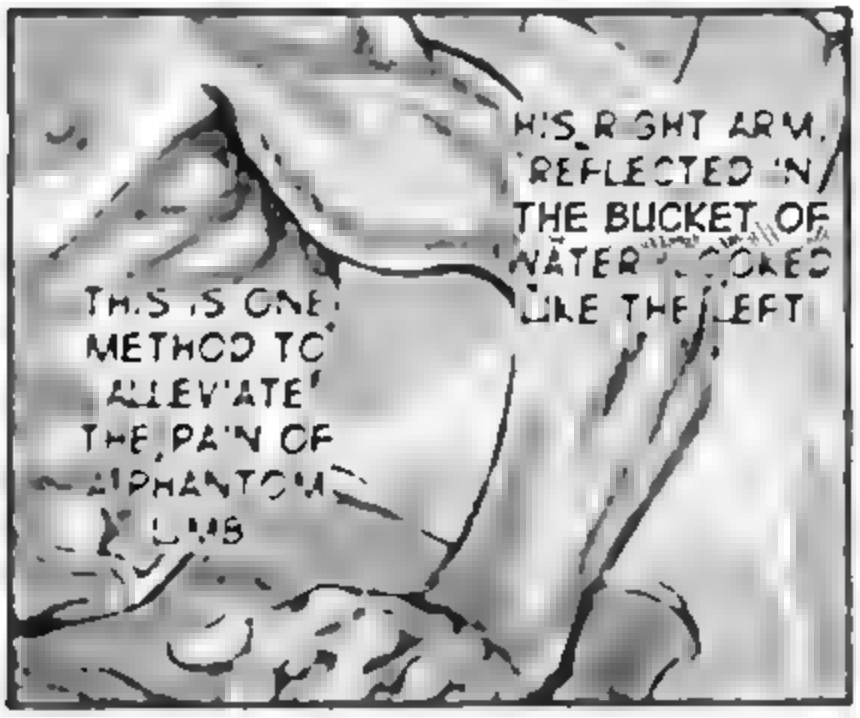
HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO SEIGEN BY THE DOMAIN OF SURUGA.

BUT IT IS MIE-DONO'S MISFOR-TUNE.

IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR YOU, IKU, I WOULD HAVE BEEN WED TO HER.

I WOULD NEVER HAVE LOST THE 300 KOKU STIPEND.




HIS RIGHT ARM, REFLECTED IN THE BUCKET OF WATER LOOKED LIKE THE LEFT
THIS IS ONE METHOD TO ALLEVIATE THE PAIN OF PHANTOM LIMB

TOMORROW IS THE DAY OF YOUR AUDIENCE AT SUNPU.

FUJIKI-SAMA

I WILL GO TO THE MARKET TO BUY THE NECESSARY ITEMS.

IT WON'T DO.

FOR A SAMURAI TO GO TO THE MARKET BEFORE DEPARTING FOR A BATTLE.

I WILL GO.

IT WAS NOT UNUSUAL FOR THE MAIDEN TO SPEND HALF A DAY AT THE MARKET.
EVERY DAY HER RETURN WAS LATER AND LATER

IT WAS NOT NEEDED TO BE INTIMIDATING

HE HAD TO TEACH HIS BODY A NEW CENTER OF BALANCE TO COMPENSATE FOR THE LOSS OF HIS LEFT ARM.

THERE WAS A REASON FOR ME'S LATE RETURN

NOT A SINGLE PERSON IN THE VILLAGE,

WOULD SPEAK TO THE DAUGHTER OF THE FALLEN TIGER

ALL THE MERCHANTS WHO KNEW HER PARENTAGE,

CHARGED HER EXORBITANT PRICES

THREE MILES FROM THE VILLAGE OF AWAMOTO

THE MAIDEN WAS FORCED TO WALK,

TO MAKE

WITH THE TRAVELERS,

IN THE MARKET OF KAMESAKA

DRIED ABALONE, PLEASE.

Sign: Dried abalone 7 mon

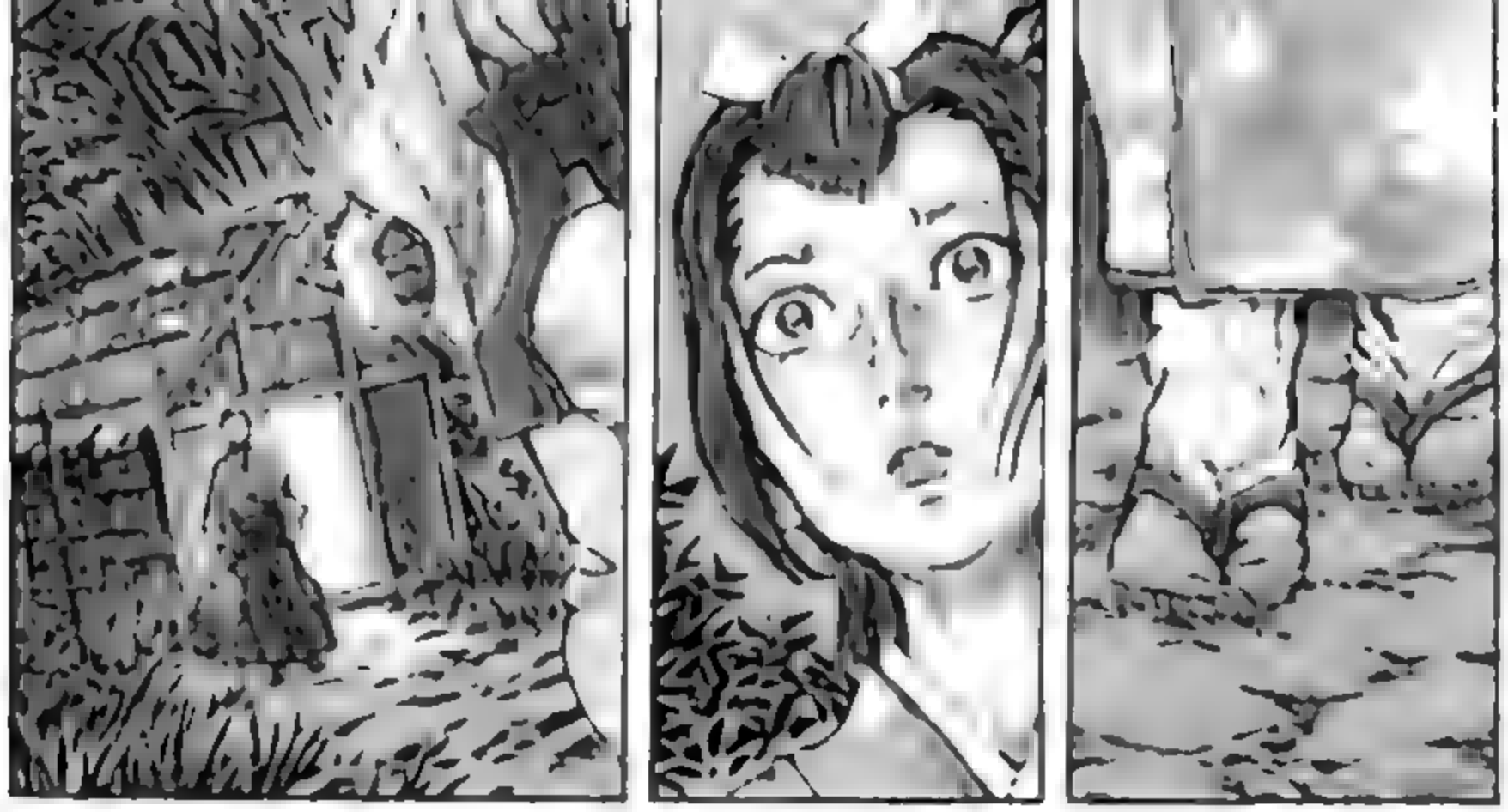
BUT THE SIGN SAYS 7 MON..

THAT WILL BE 70 MON.

I AM MUCH OBLIGED,

TO THE MASTERS OF KOGAN-RYUU.

REHEATED THE RICE PORRIDGE OVER AND OVER AND AWAITED THE MAIDEN'S RETURN

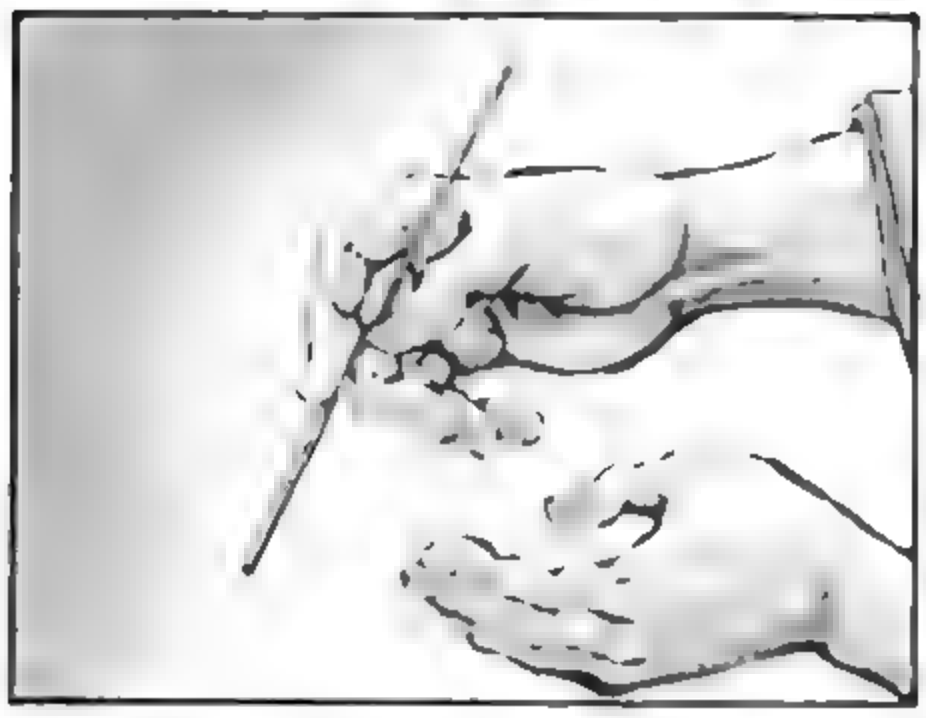


THE ROADS ARE NOT SAFE AT NIGHT.

IT IS LATE.

HER BASKET
WAS EMPTY

BUT I WAS HAVING SO MUCH FUN IN TOWN.

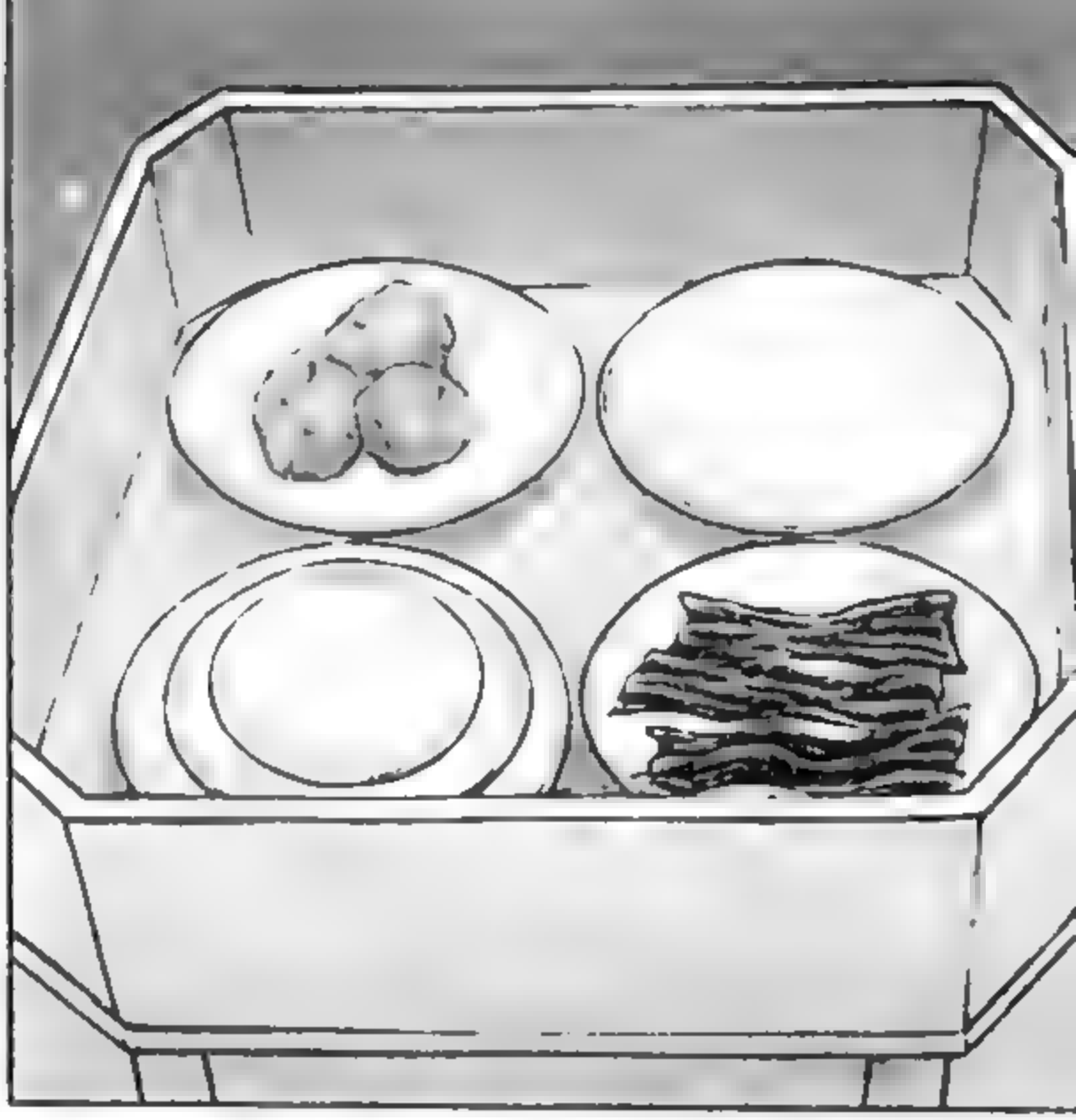


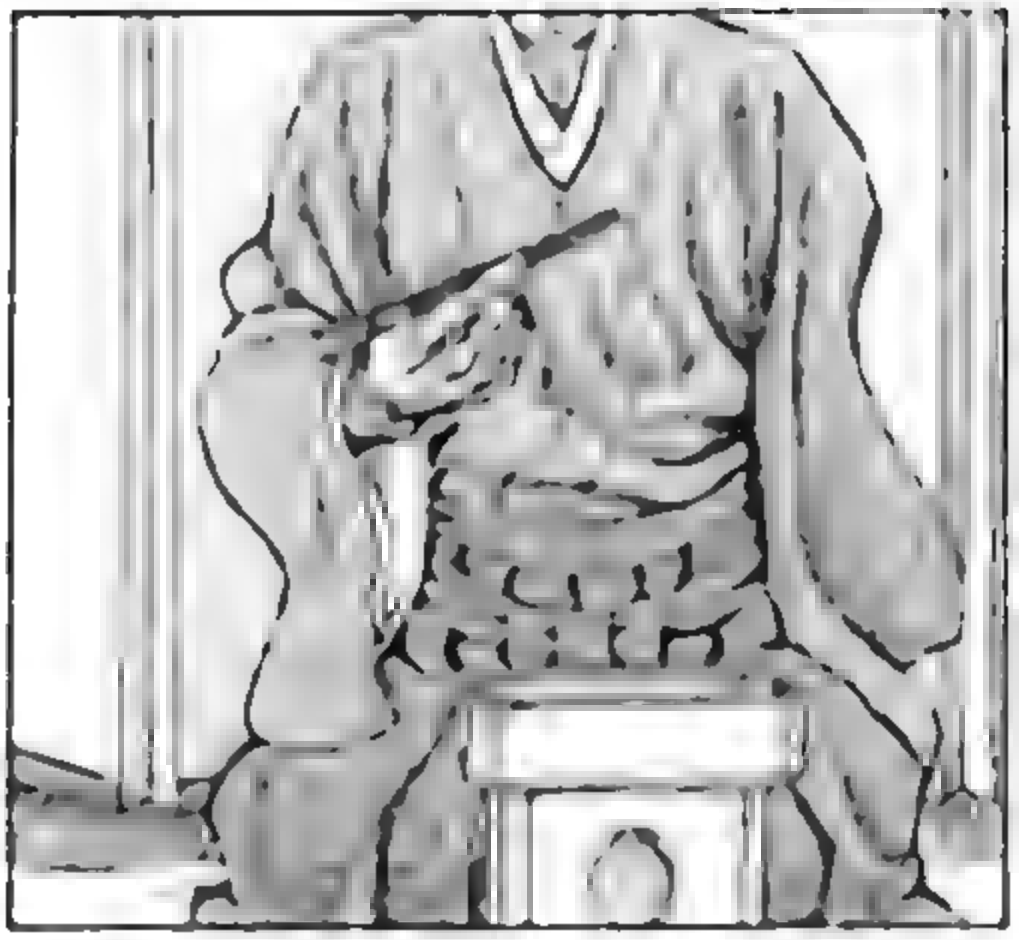
FOR THE AUDI-ENCE AT SUNPU.

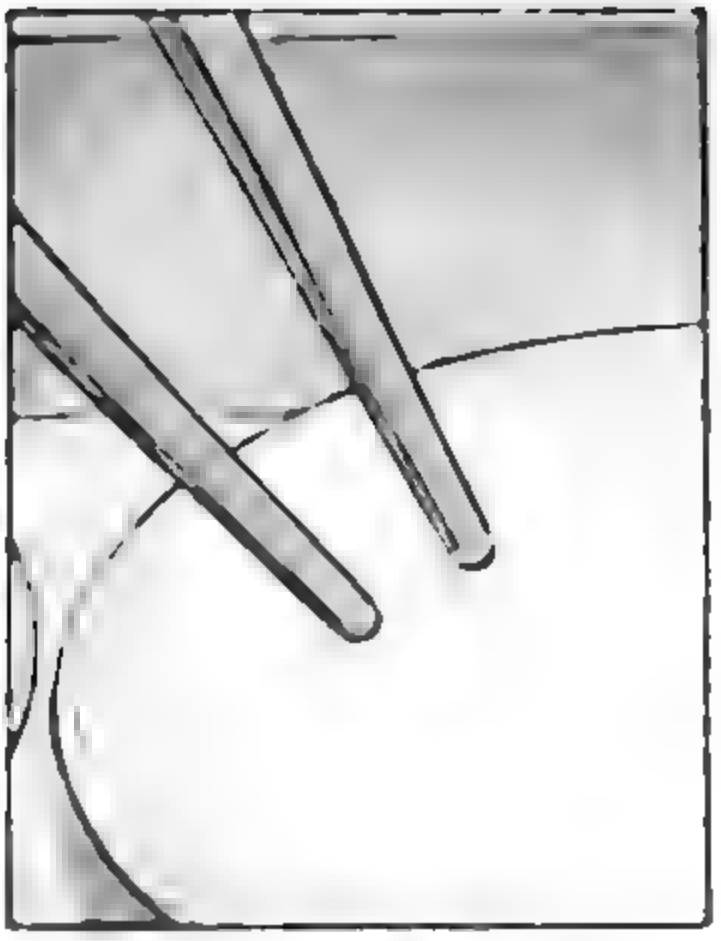
THE DAY OF THEIR DEPAR-TURE.

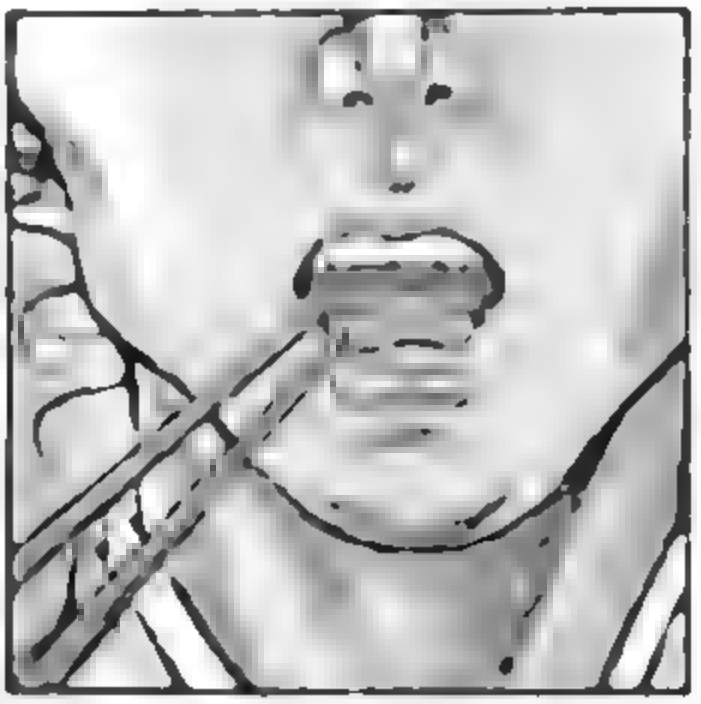
MIE PREPARED THE SHI-HOUZEN.

THERE WAS NO DRIED ABALONE.









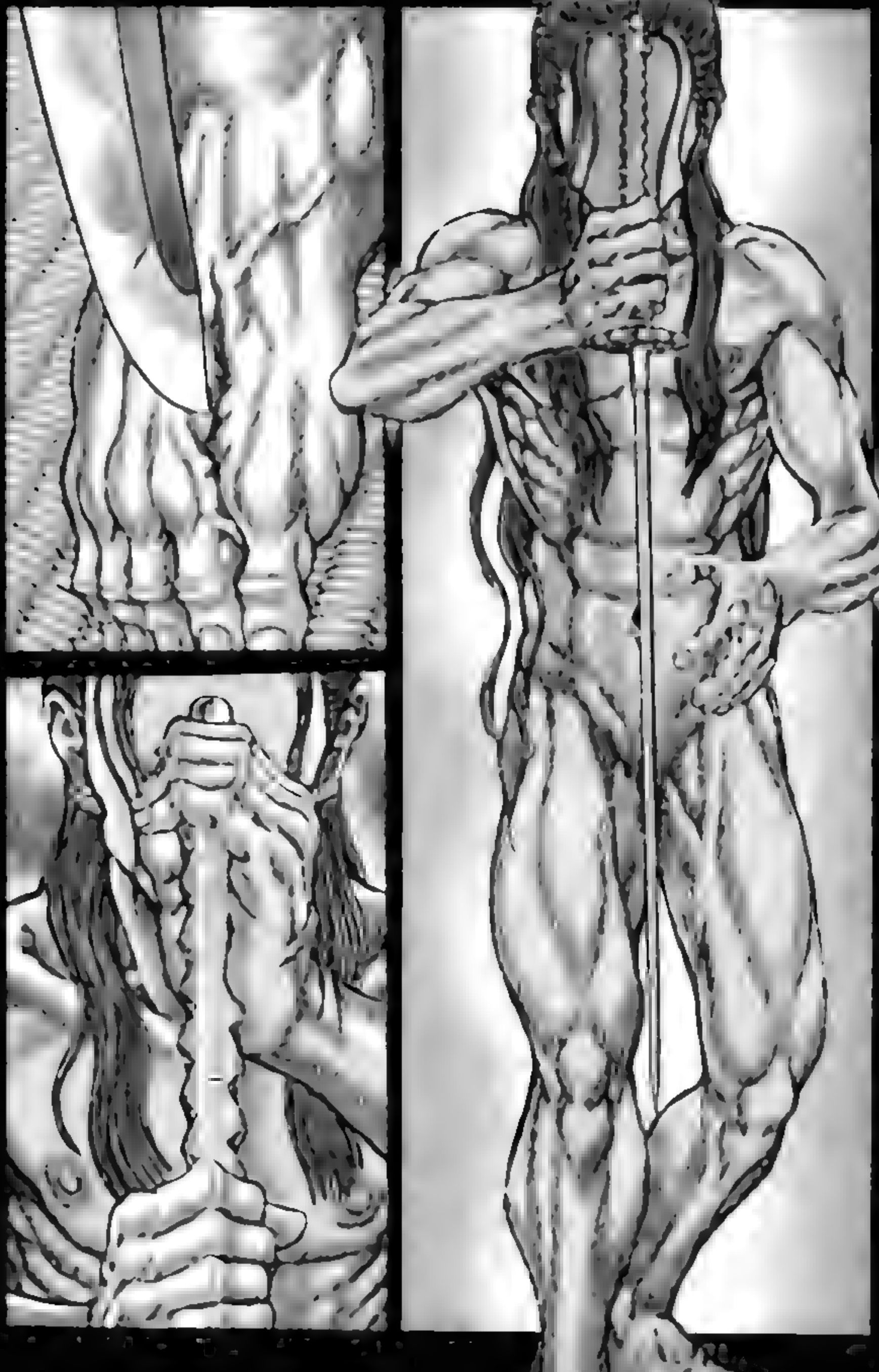
THE RISE AND FALL OF A MAN'S FORTUNES.

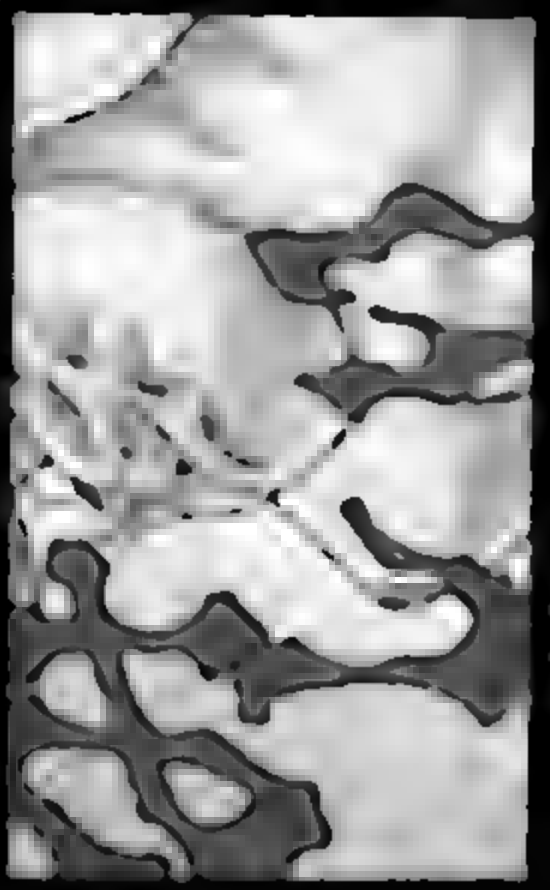
THE ESTATE OF OKAKURA KOKUSAI

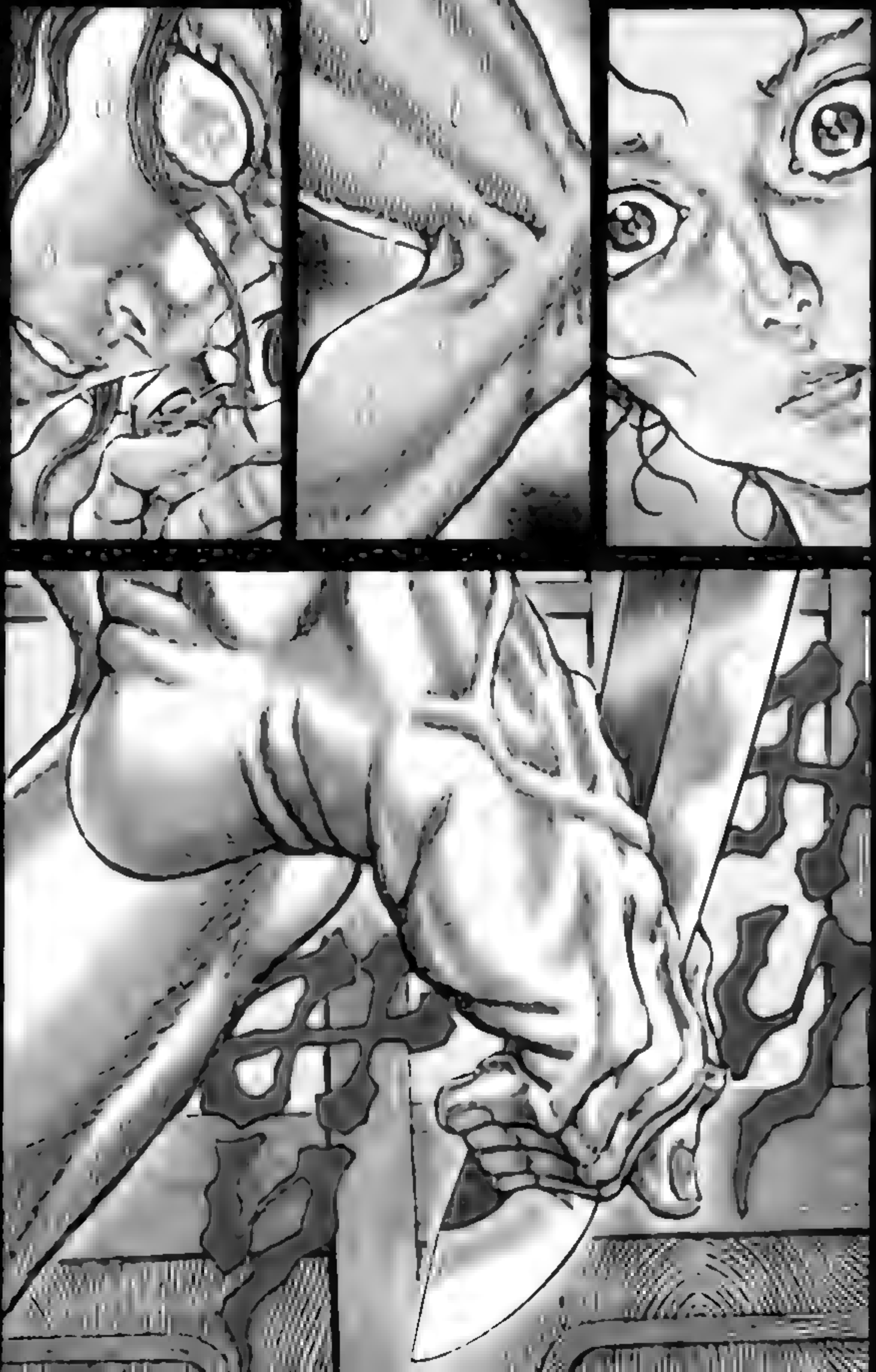
CERTAINLY DO NOT CONFORM TO MERIT

THE WORLD DESPISES THE FALLEN AS EVIL.

AND EXALTS THE PROSPEROUS AS GOOD







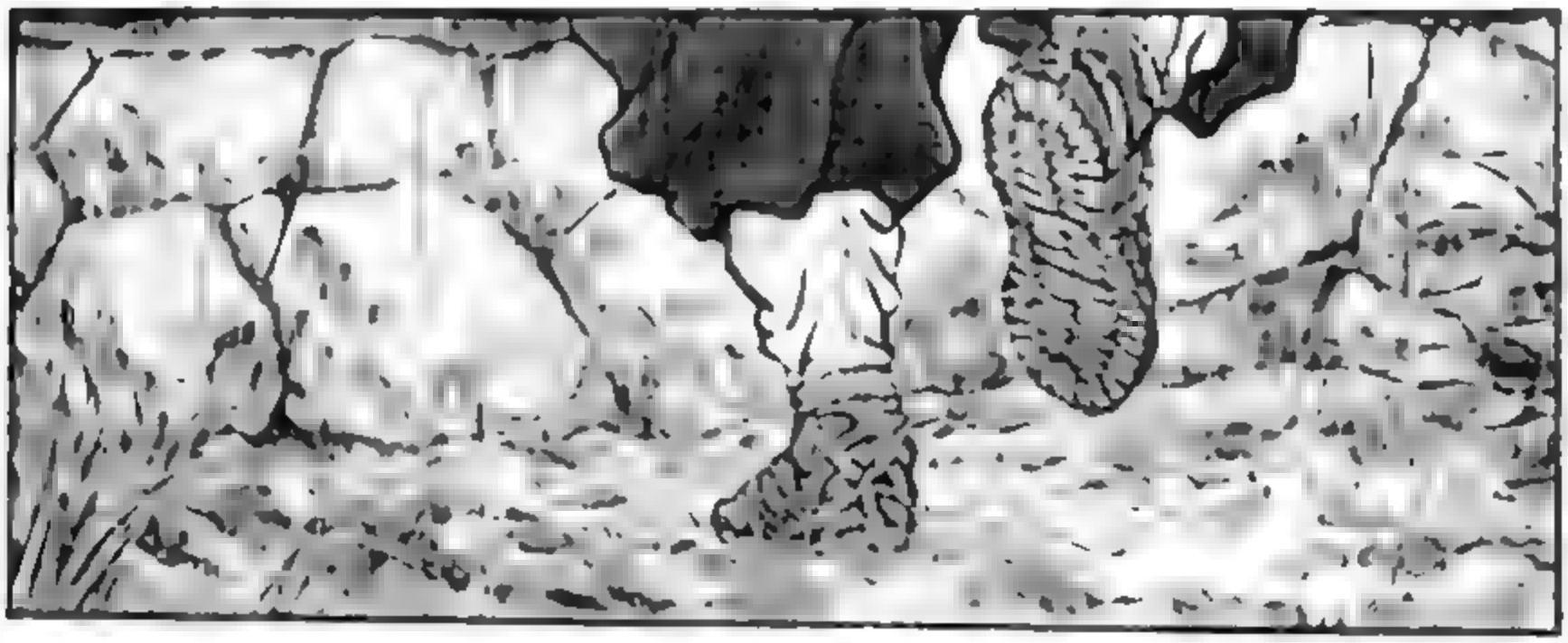
CHAPTER 61
RAIN SHOWER

THE WARRIOR S STEPS WERE QUICK
HEADING TOWARDS THE ALI ENCE AT SUNPU

IT WAS A PUNISHING PACE FOR THE MAIDEN

GENNOSUKE HAD NEVER BEFORE IN HIS LIFE,

WALKED ALONGSIDE A WOMAN

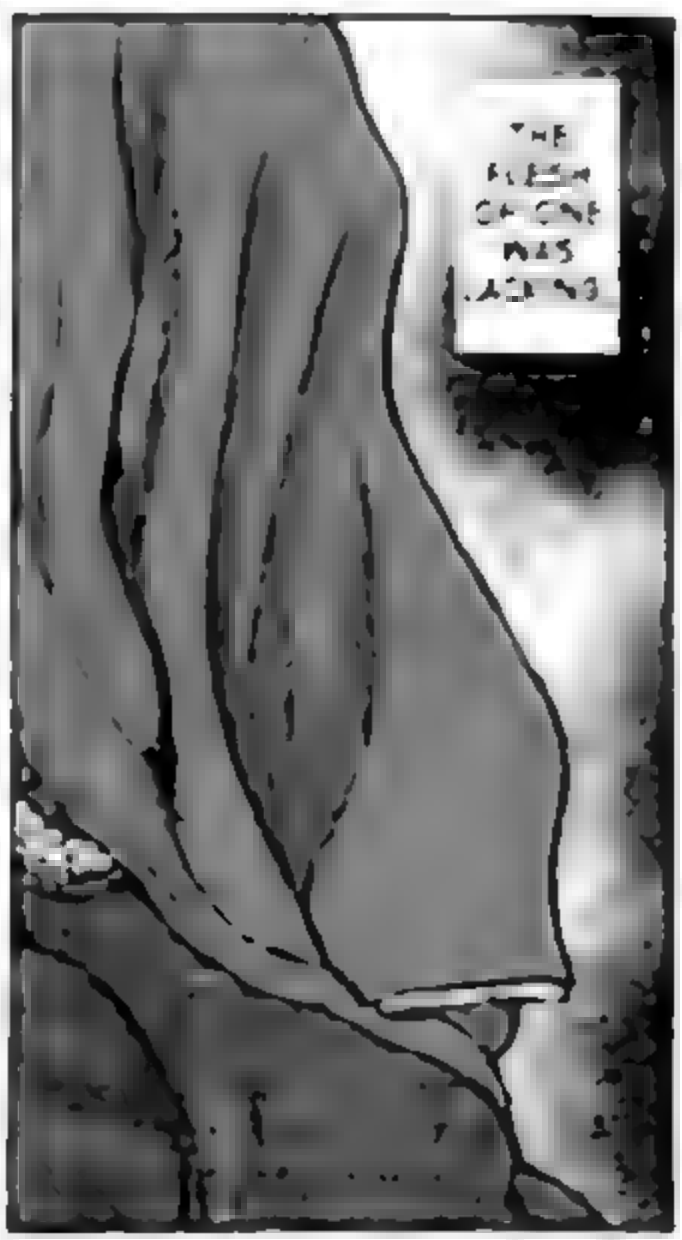


MAY WE ENTER?
I TOO AM SHELTERING FROM THE RAIN.
CERTAINLY

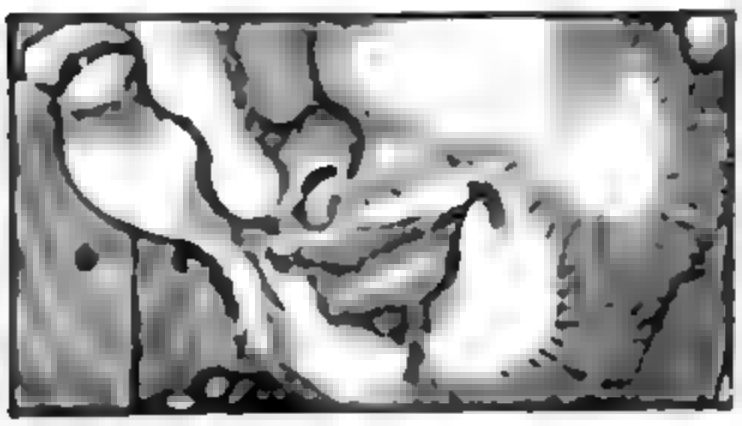
MEETING AT A SHRINE TO ENMA* BY THE MAIN ROAD,

*King of the underworld or B
also called Yama

THE
AND THE
TO BE A
NAMES

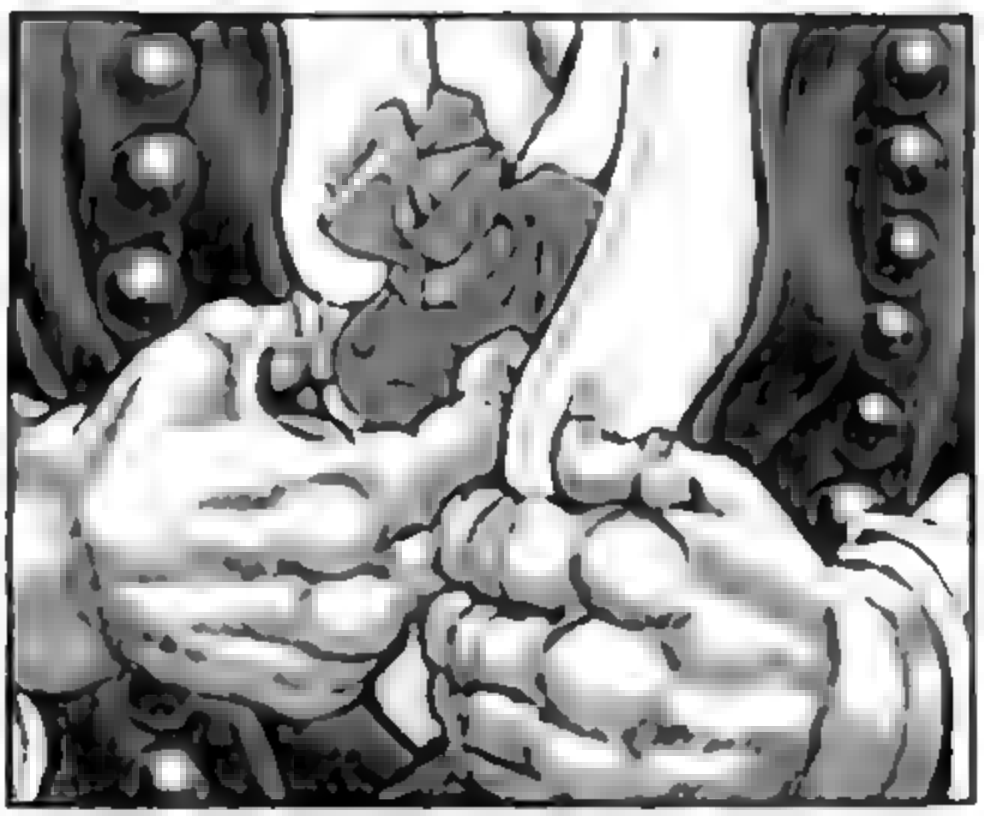


WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

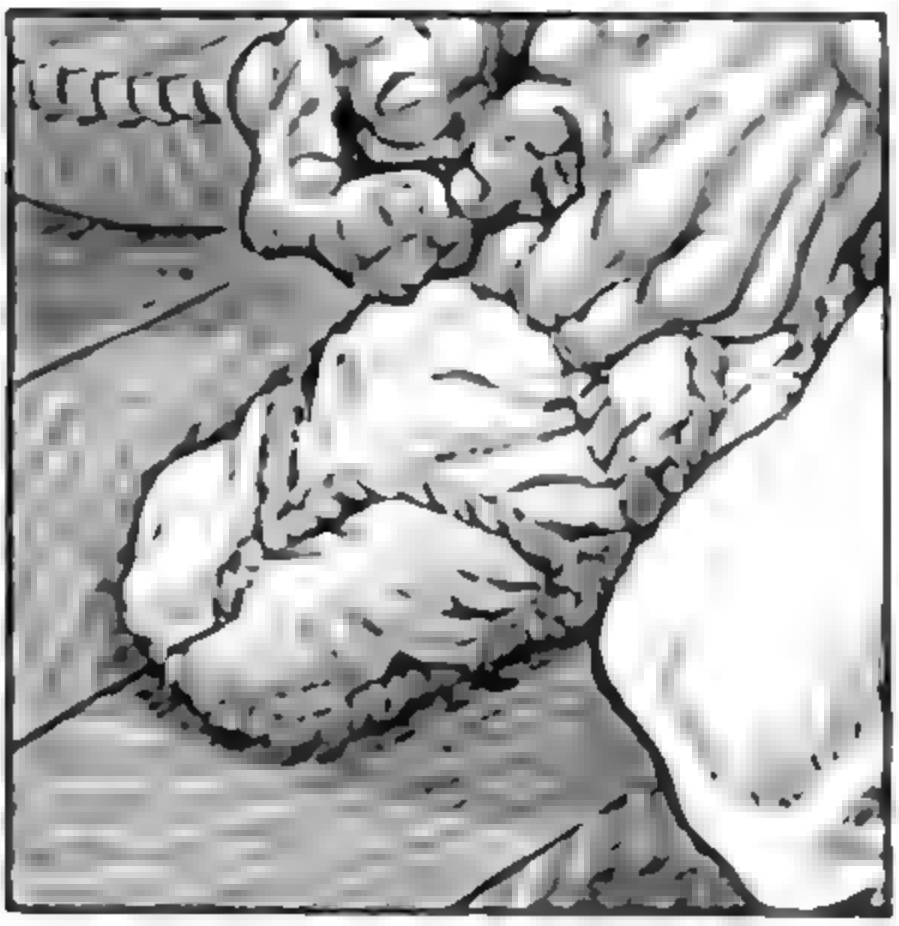


TO SUNPU.

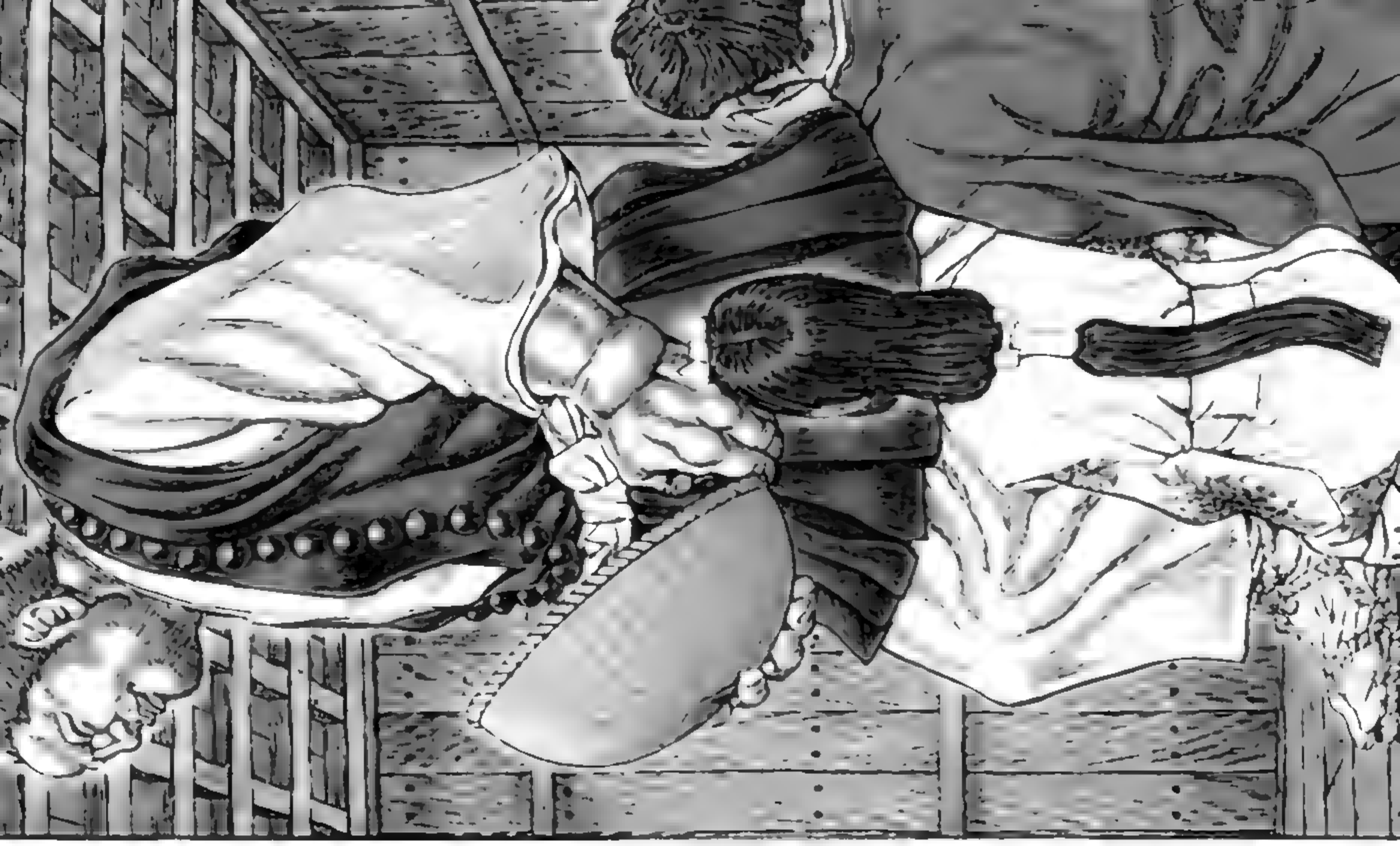
YOU MUST BE QUITE WORN OUT

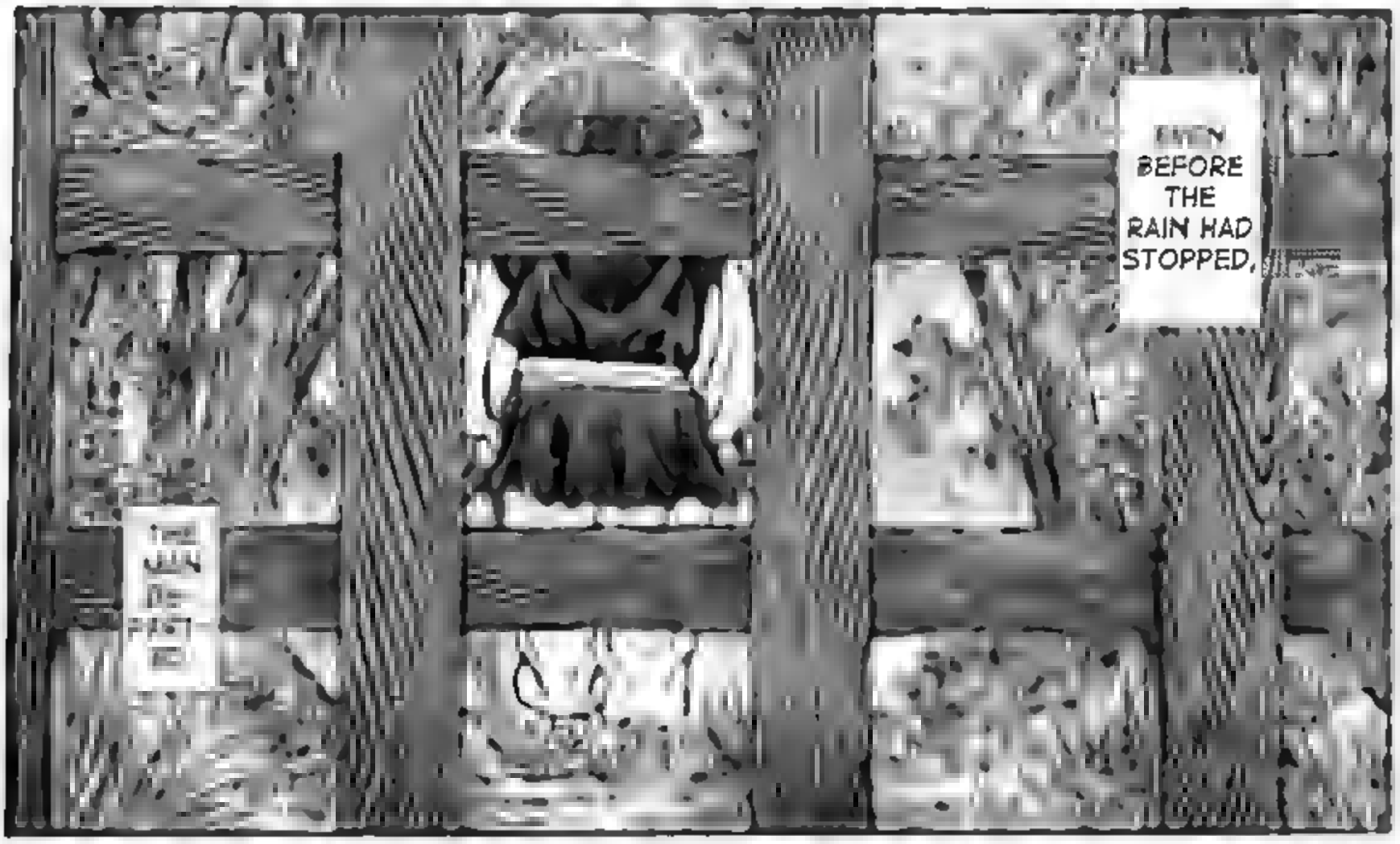


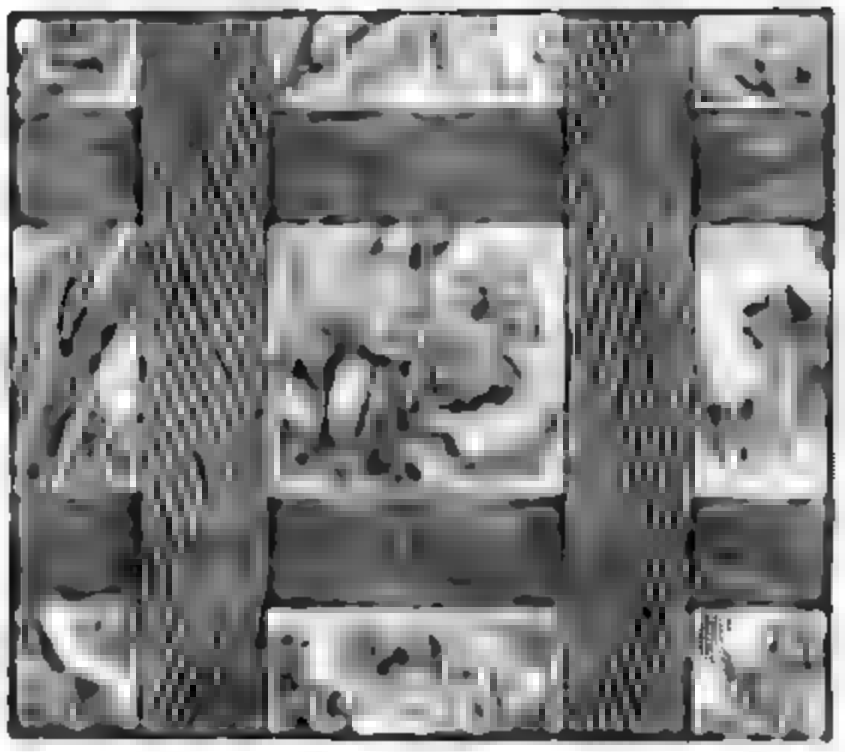
USE THIS LINIMENT ON YOUR FEET

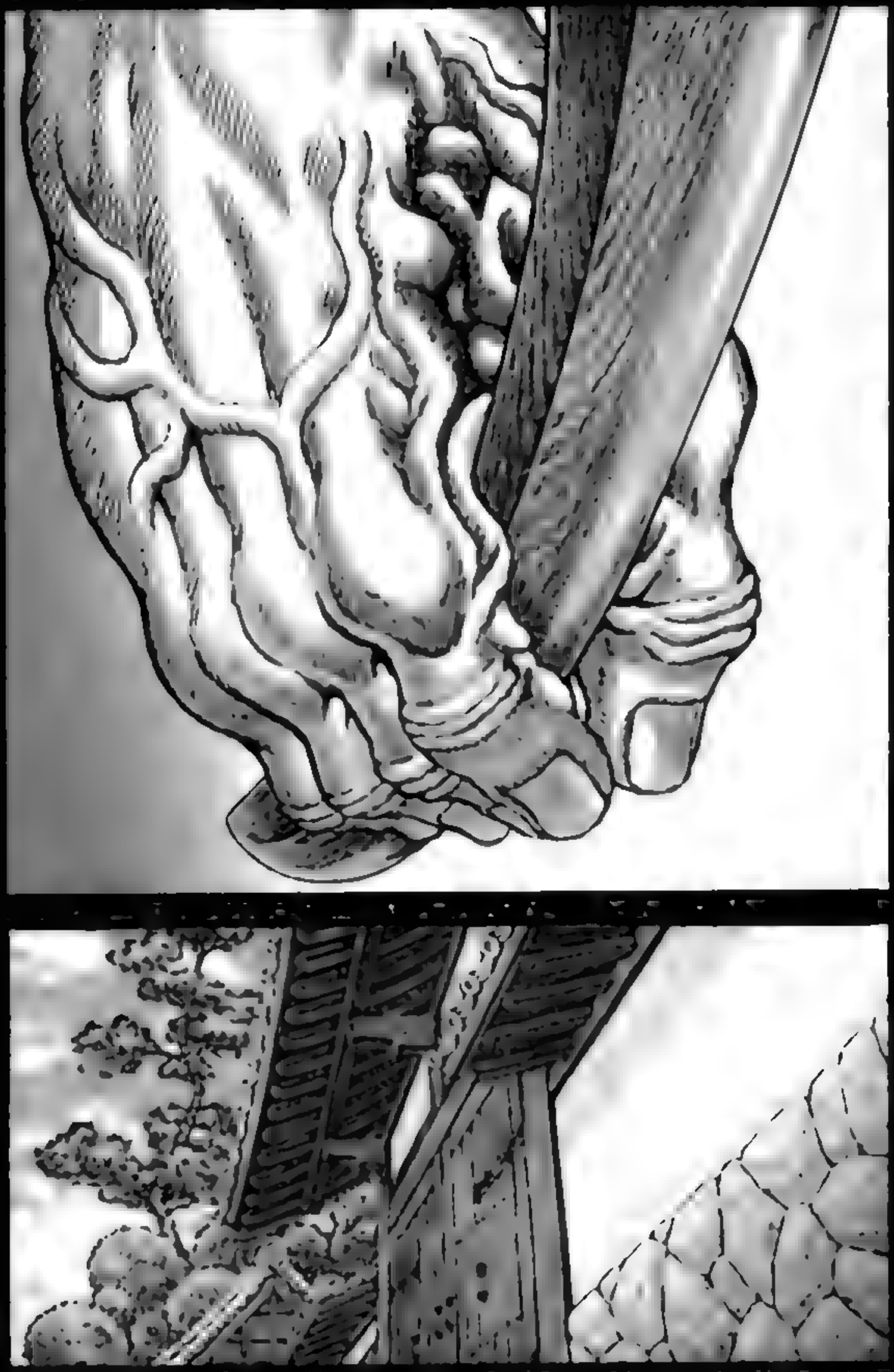


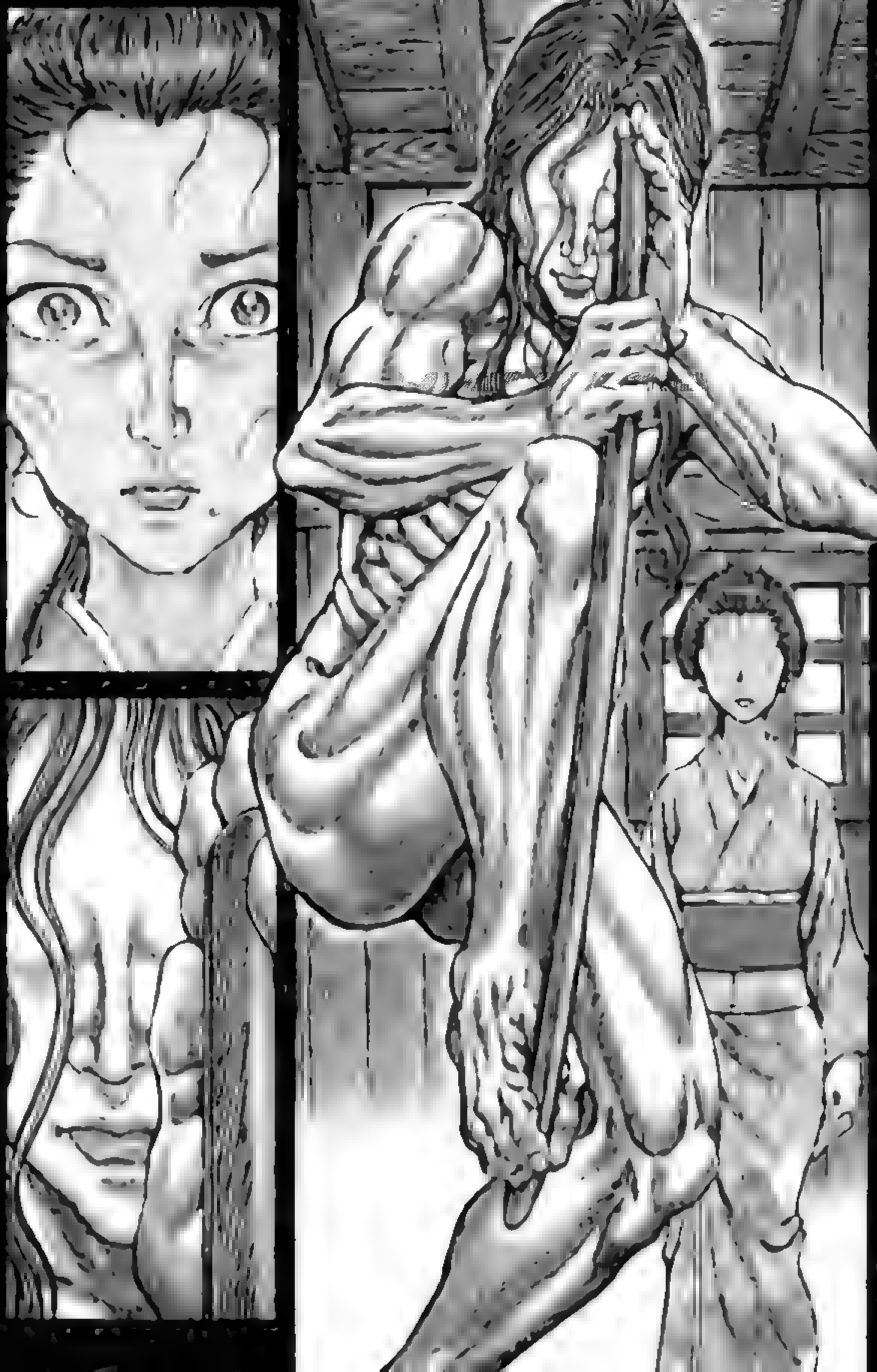
PLEASE DON'T TROUBLE YOUR-SELF.

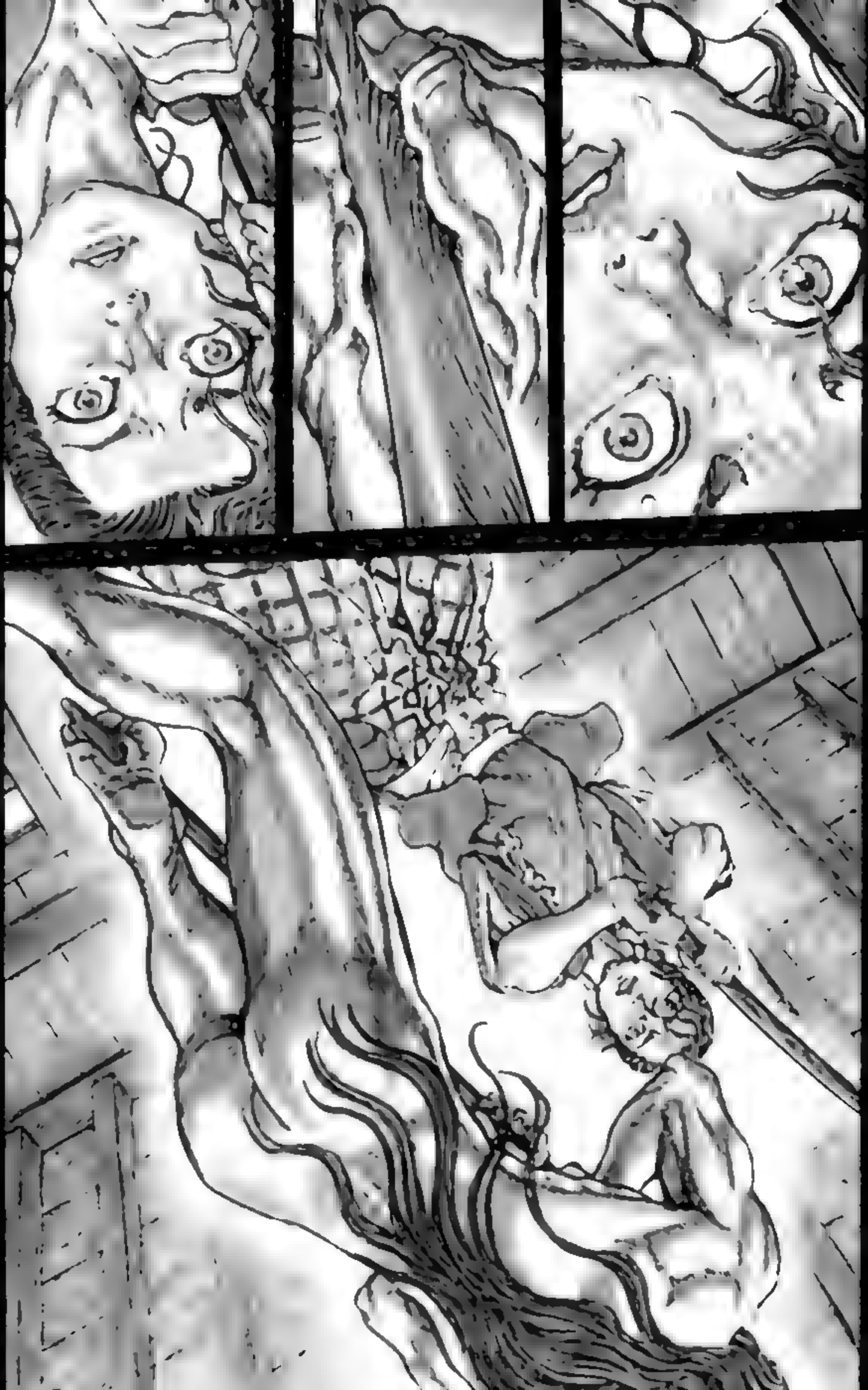


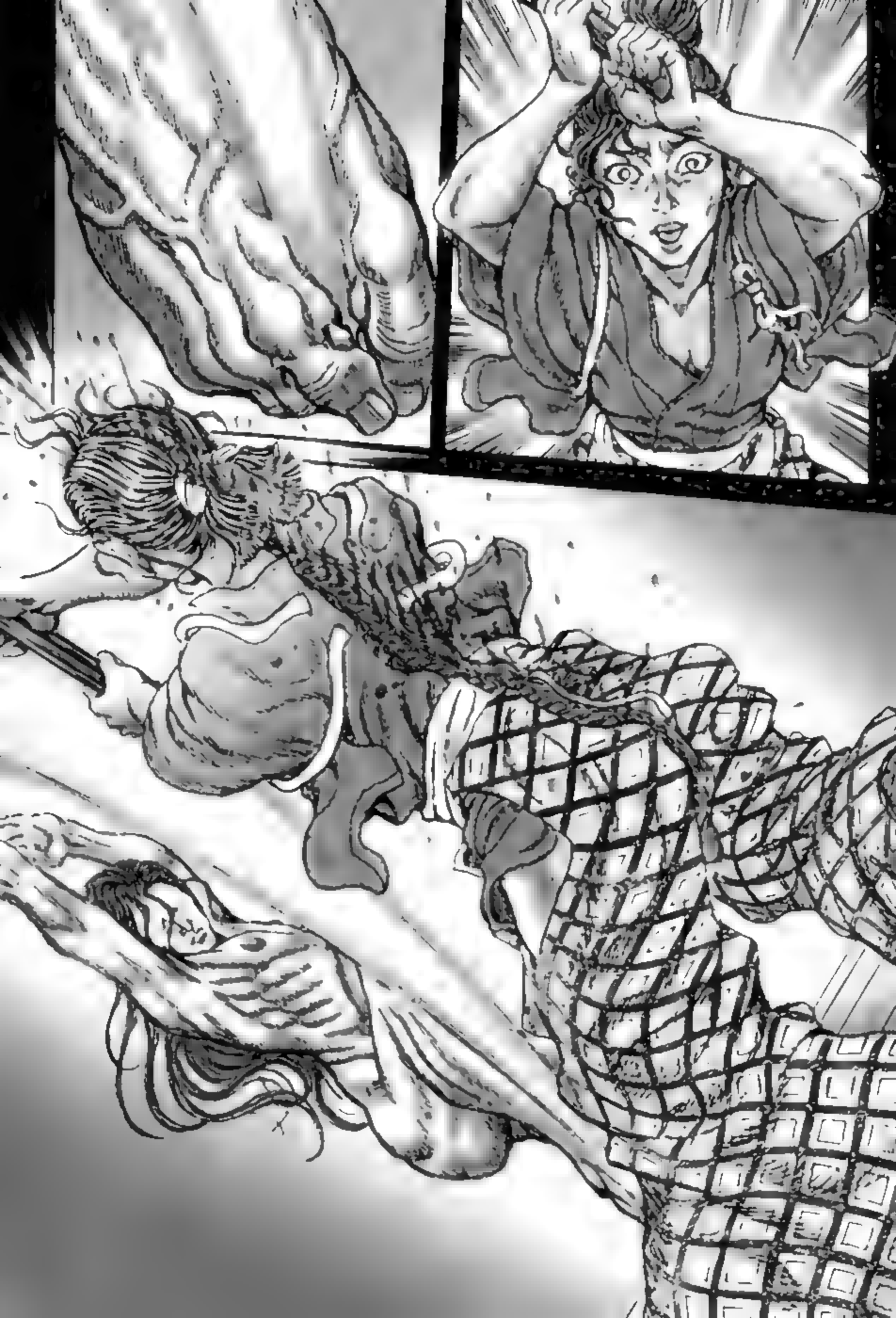

EVEN
BEFORE
THE
RAIN HAD
STOPPED,

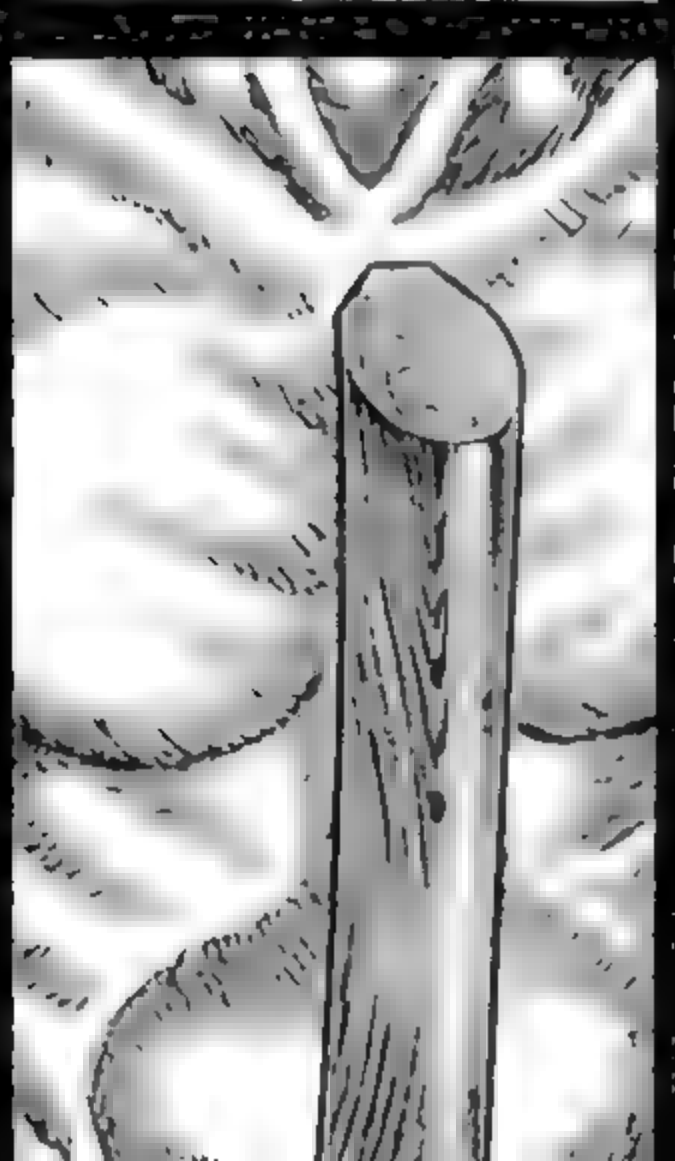












SO THERE IS TO BE AN OFFICIAL TOURNA-MENT?

OUTSIDE
SUNPU
CASTLE.

THE ESTATE
OF SAEGUSA
TAKAMASA
OF IZU

HEAD
CHAMBERLAIN
OF THE FIEF
OF SUBUGA

is greatly impressed with Irako Seigen's swordsmanship

Our lord, Tadanaga

We are recruiting an appropriate opponent for Seigen

There is to be a tournament in the near future

Fujiki Gensuke

your karma appears to be singularly linked to him

I WILL PUT AN END TO IT.

What a remarkable sense of bushido!

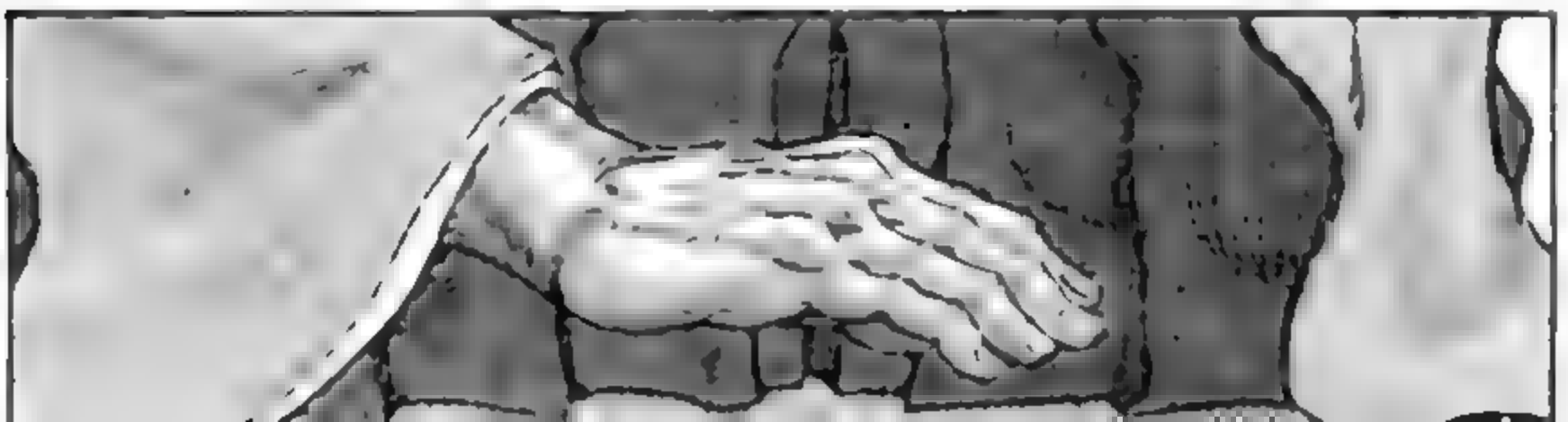
you do not slit your belly.

Even after suffering utter defeat,

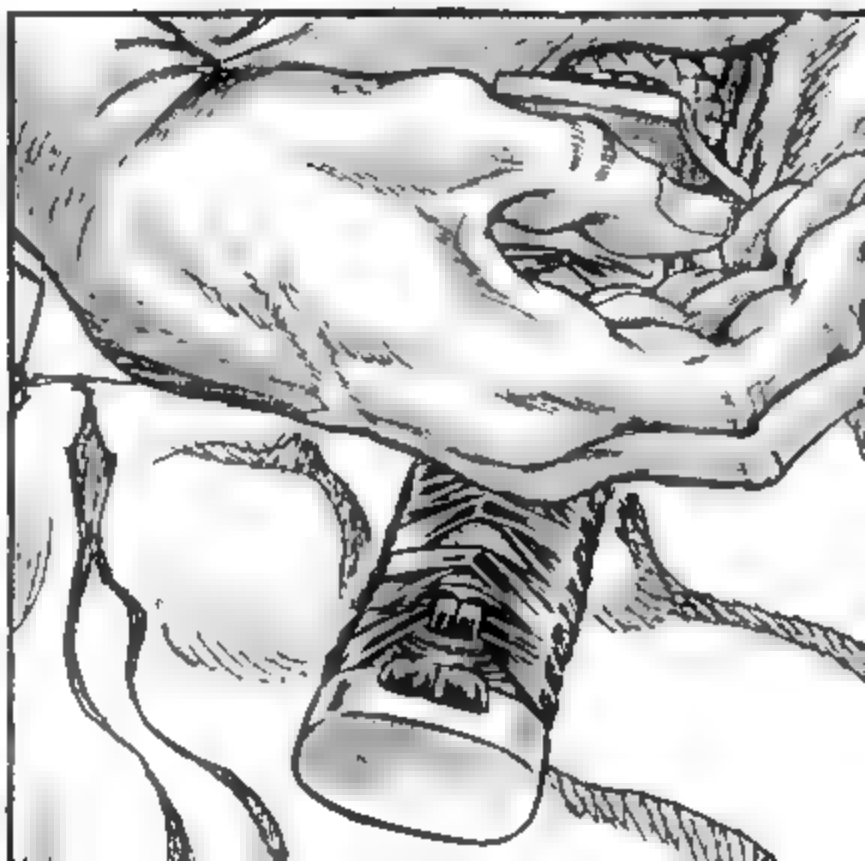
but have the audacity to request a rematch.

Fujiki Gennosuke received a direct order,
from the envoy, Mabuchi-sama,
to hold a rematch against Irako Seigen
I-I beg your pardon.

I DID NOT.



Fujiki!



If you wish to be matched against Seigen, then show me your skill!

Prove that you can fight with just one arm!

ELSEWHERE, IN THE SAME ESTATE.

BLACK
BEAR

ORIGINALLY THE SURNAME "[illegible]"

BELONGED TO A FAMILY OF PHYSICIANS

SECOND YEAR OF GNNW

EDO.

THE
TOWN
DOCTOR
IRAKO
SE GEN

ALTHOUGH HE HAD BEEN INVITED TO SERVE AS COURT PHYSICIAN TO THE DAIMYO INSTEAD HE DEDICATED HIMSELF TO HIS PRACTICE IN TOWN.

USING ACUPRESSURE ON VITAL MERIDIANS HIS TREATMENT HAD THE POWER TO CURE EVEN AILMENTS OF THE INTERNAL ORGANS

AT HIS CLINIC IN ISHIGAME ENOKICHO

PEOPLE SEEKING TREATMENT THRONGED AND QUEUED ACCORDING TO THE ANNALS OF THE TIME

I'M BACK.

WELCOME HOME, SENSEI.

THAT VOICE!

OF ALLAH!

AT THE TIME IT WAS CUSTOMARY FOR A MAN PRACTICING MEDICINE TO SHAVE HIS HEAD
BUT NO ONE FOUND FAULT WITH THE YOUTH'S LONG HAIR

THOSE EYES

IMMEDIATELY

WHERE ARE YOU GOING DRESSED UP LIKE THAT?

OH, ME TOO!

ME TOO!

WHERE ELSE? TO SEE DOCTOR SEIGEN.

THE ONE THEY THOUGHT OF WAS THE BLACK-HAIRED YOUTH

WHEN THE WOMEN OF THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD SAID "DOCTOR SEIGEN".

...

ALTHOUGH AT THE TIME IT WAS MORE COMMON FOR A DOCTOR TO MAKE HOUSE CALLS.
THE CLINIC WAS ALWAYS CROWDED

M my chest hurts

GIVE ME YOUR HAND

HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

NEXT!

My chest

HE COULD SEE THE AREAS THAT REQUIRED TREATMENT SHINING.

COULD DETECT BLOCKAGES IN THE FLOW OF VITAL ENERGY MERELY BY LOOKING AT A PATIENT

THE FLOOR APPEARANCE

SHUN AY

A PHY-SICIAN'S LIFE WAS NOT EASY

AT THE TIME, A DOCTOR'S FEE WAS BASED MERELY ON THE GRATITUDE OF HIS PATIENTS.

THEY SAY YOU ARE THE SON OF A RICH KYOTO OIL MERCHANT.

WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU HOPE TO GAIN HERE?

YOUR MASSAGE TECHNIQUE IS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF *"KOSSHI JUTSU", IS IT NOT?

KOSSHI JUTSU IS THE POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH.

I'VE HEARD THAT YOU CAN GRANT OR TAKE LIFE,

ACCORD-ING TO YOUR WILL.

*Kosshi jutsu: "The technique of the essence"

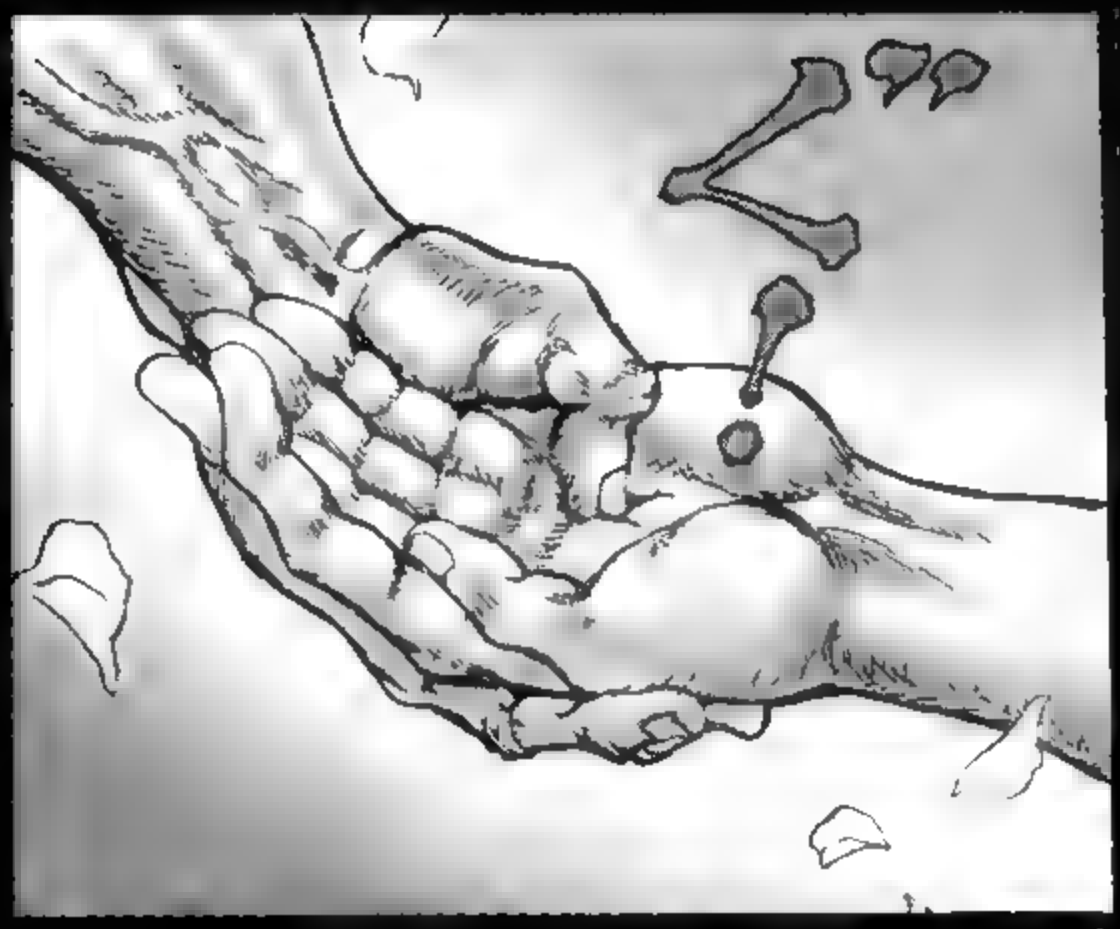
BUT YOU MUST NOT SEEK TO MASTER THE FATAL TECH-NIQUES.

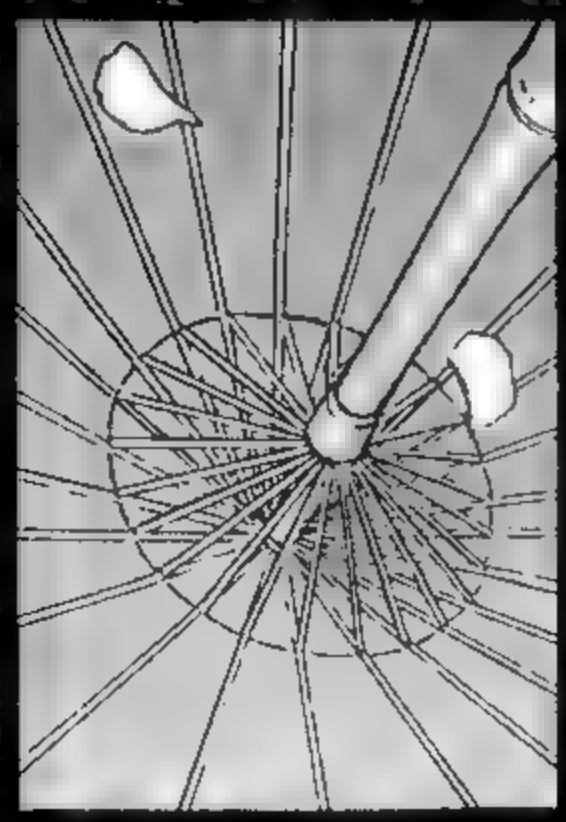
YOU CAN LENGTHEN OR SHORTEN A PERSON'S LIFESPAN.

IF YOU HAVE A THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF THE FUNCTION OF PRESSURE POINTS,

IF YOU DO, YOU WILL BECOME A DEMON.

SHOW ME YOUR HAND.





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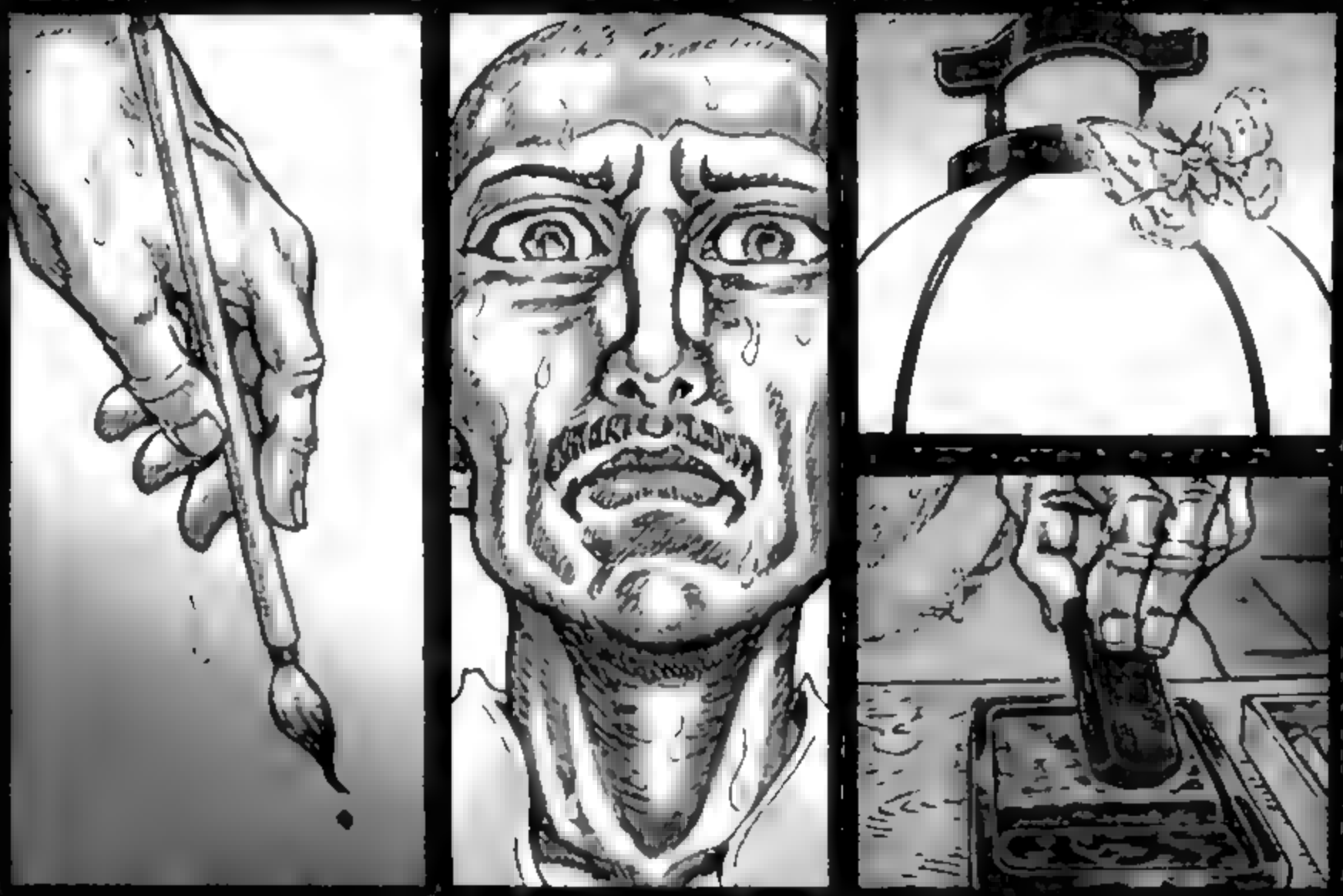
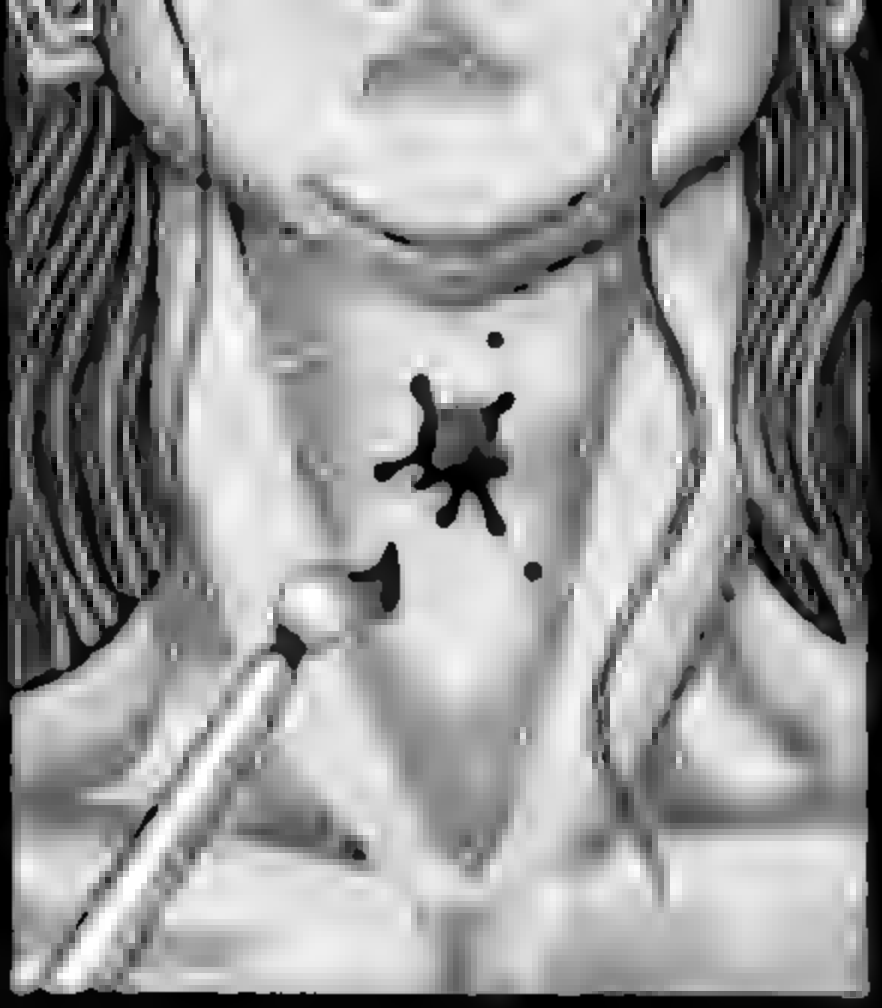
ゴゴゴ

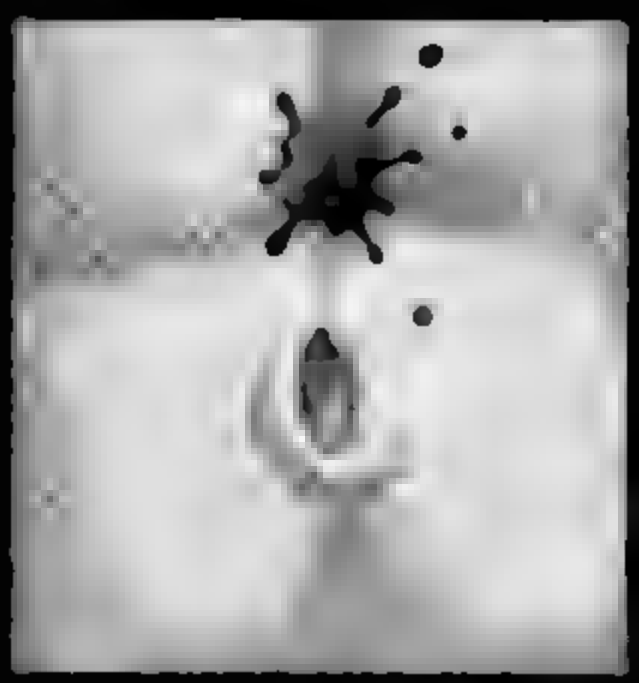
W-
what.
a
terrifying
skill_

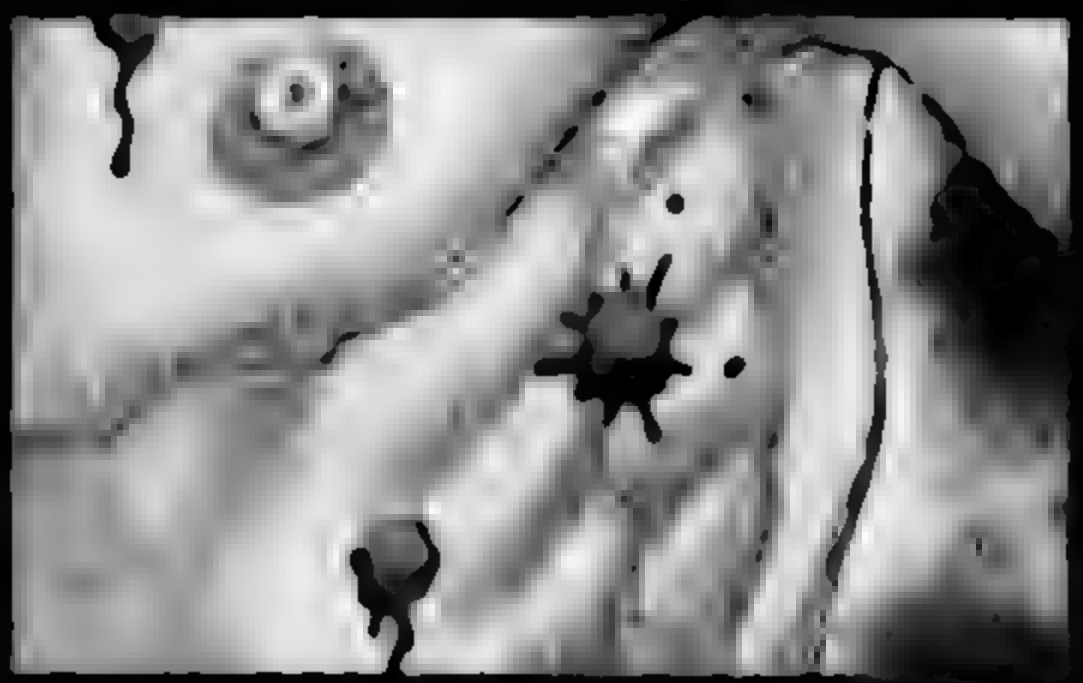
This is
the way
to kill
using
kosshi
jutsu.
Surprised
_?

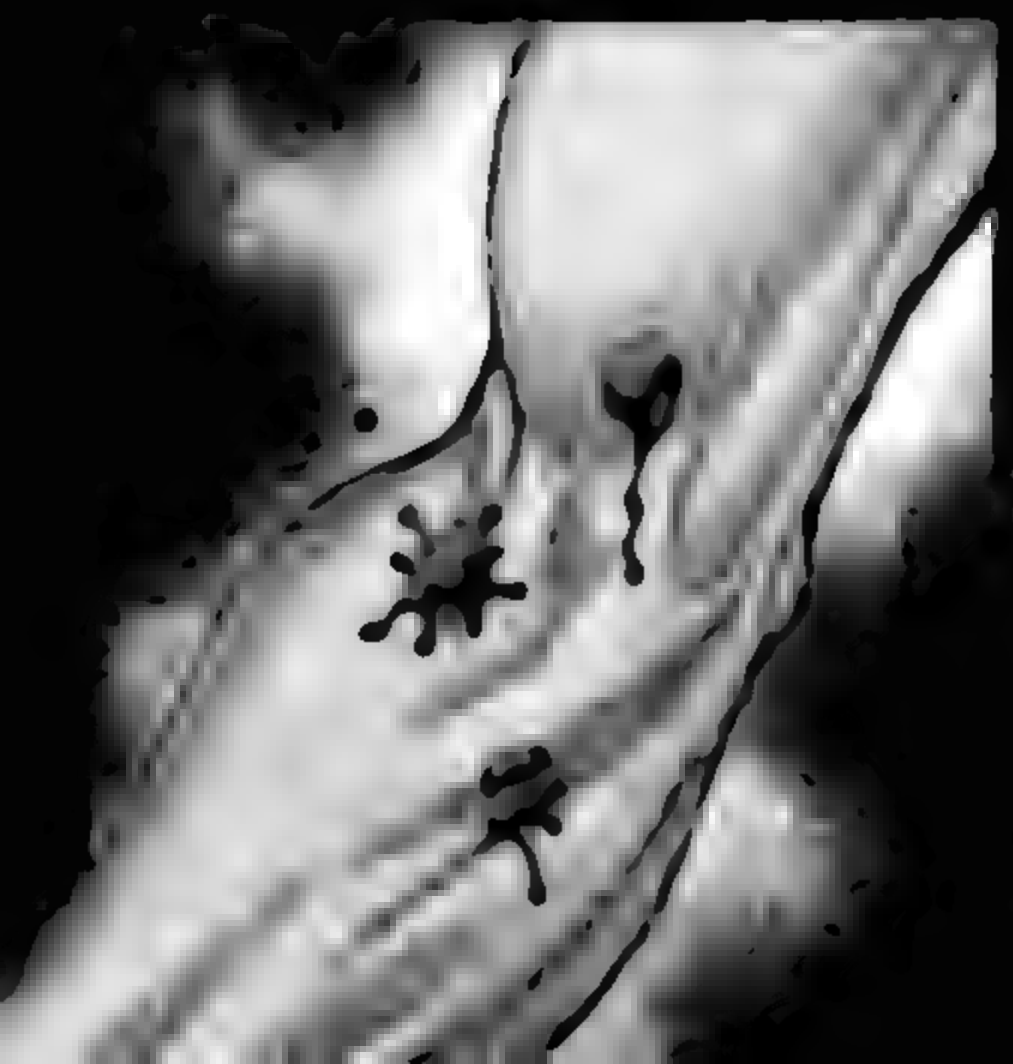
Please
more

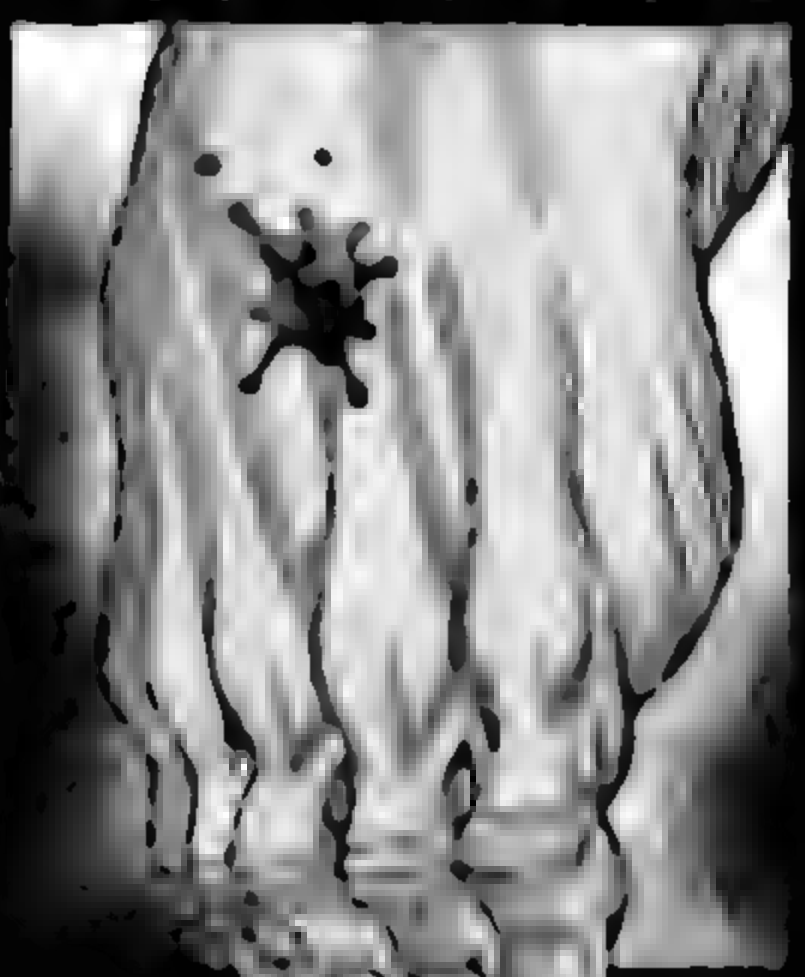


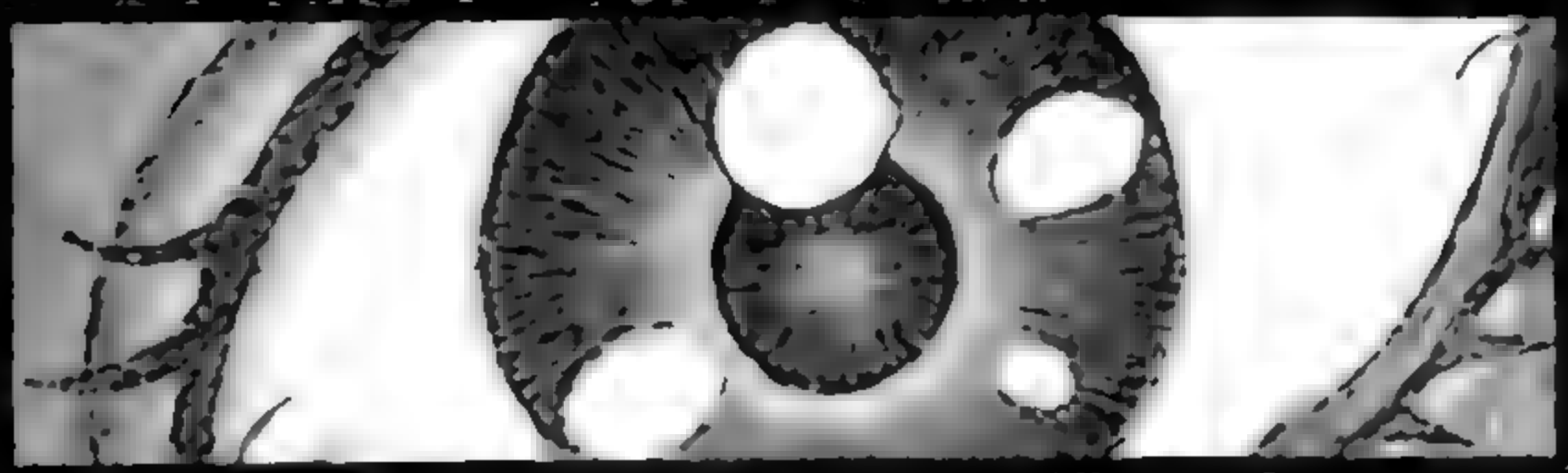












YOUR EYES ARE SO MYSTERIOUS
WHEN YOU GAZE UPON ME I WANT TO GIVE YOU EVERYTHING

I HAVE TAUGHT YOU EVERY-THING I KNOW

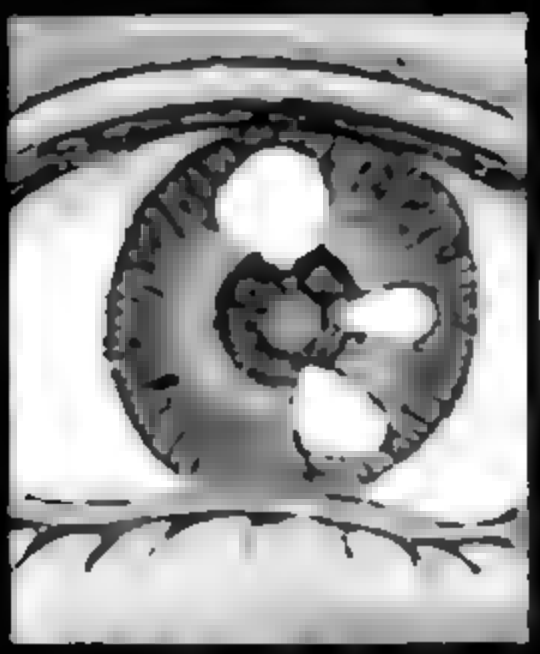
ALL THE SECRET TECHNIQUES OF KOSSHI JUTSU.

ALL?

HAVE YOU REALLY TAUGHT ME EVERY-THING YOU KNOW?

WHY WOULD I HIDE ANYTHING FROM YOU?

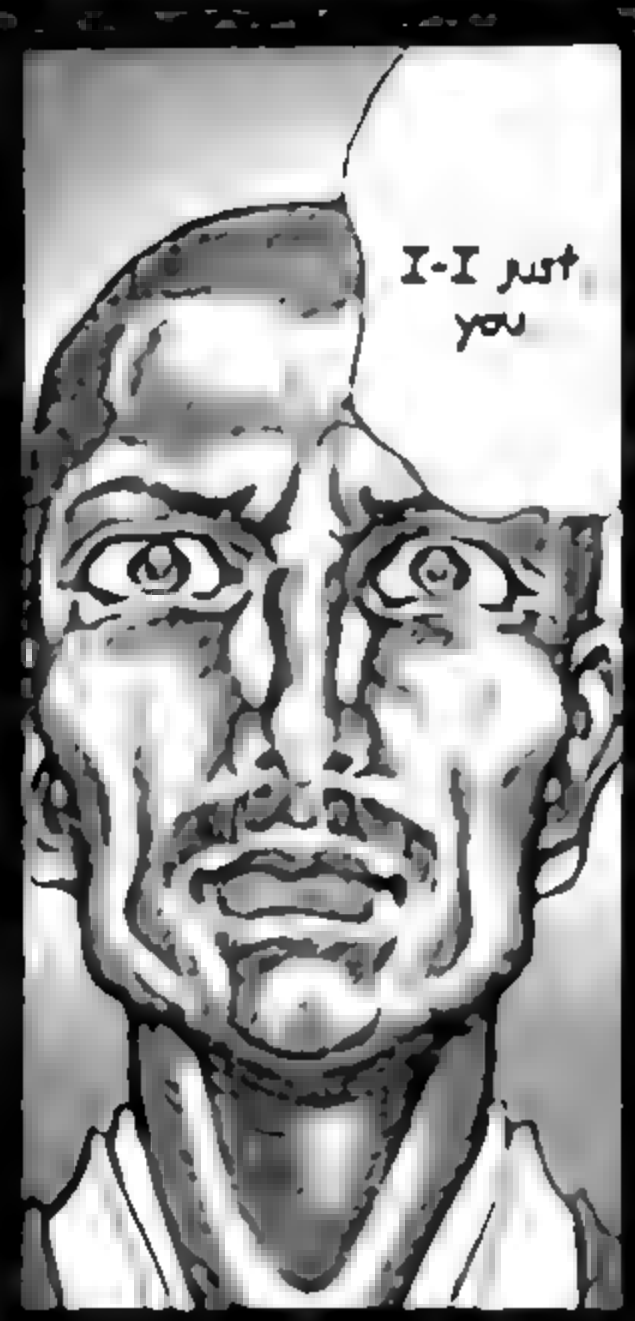
YOU WILL CERTAINLY BECOME A GOOD DOCTOR

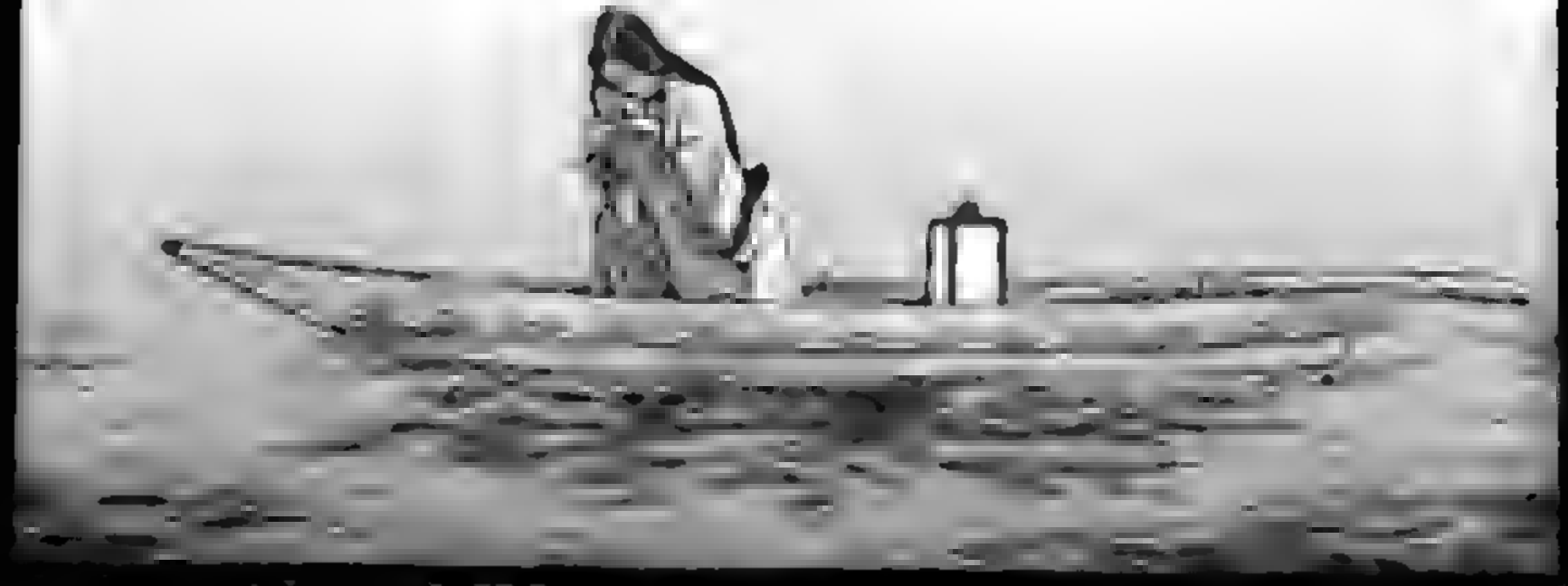


NO NEED TO THANK ME

THANK YOU.

THANKS TO YOU, I CAN SEE THE PRESSURE POINTS SHINING.


I-I just you



WITHOUT THEIR "DOCTOR SEIGEN" THE WOMEN QUICKLY LOST THEIR BLOOM

BUT THE TWO BODIES WERE NEVER RECOVERED

ACCORDING TO THE TESTIMONY OF THE WITNESSES, IT WAS CALLED A "LOVE SUICIDE".

BARELY SCRAPED BY, PRACTICING MEDICINE IN A LONELY TENEMENT HOUSE

SHUN AN LEFT ON HIS OWN.

A RONIN VISITING EDO FROM ENSHUU

TOLD HIM A TALE HE COULD NOT IGNORE

ONE DAY,

WHO HAD MADE A NAME FOR HIMSELF BY KILLING HIS MASTER

HE SAID THERE WAS A BEAUTIFUL BLACK-HAIRED SWORDSMAN IN KAMEGAWA.

BY THE NAME OF IRAIO SEIGEN.

INTENDING TO ATTACK SEIGEN, SHUN'AN HEADED TOWARDS SUNPU.

That bastard!

Stealing Sensei's name...

THE GIANT WAS DETERMINED TO BURY SEIJEN

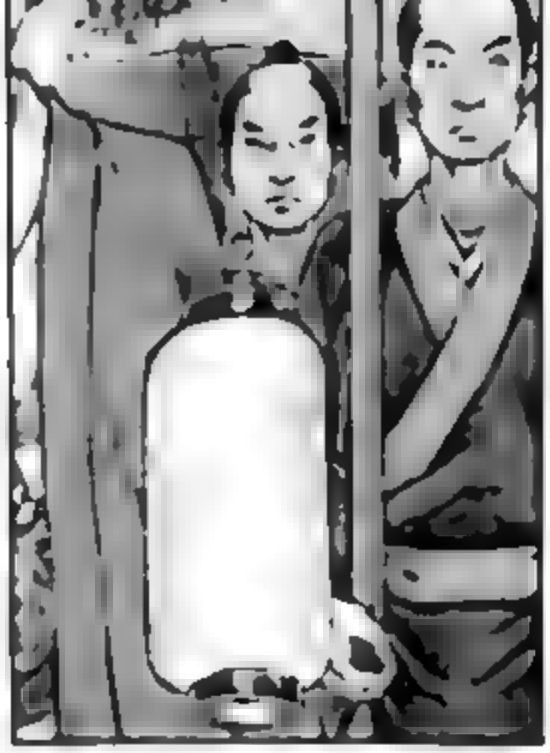
NOT IN REVENGE FOR HIS MASTER

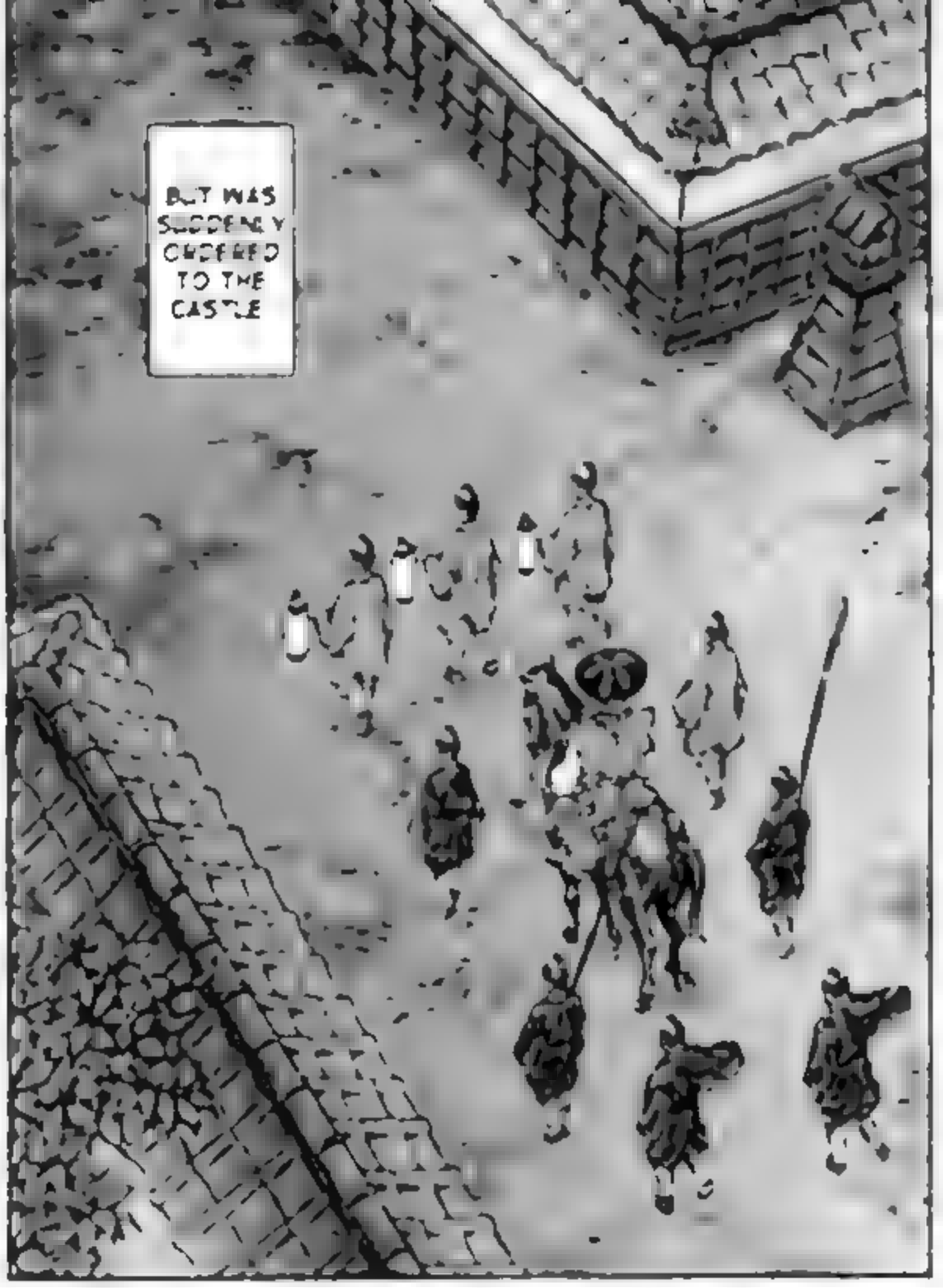
MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO LIVE...

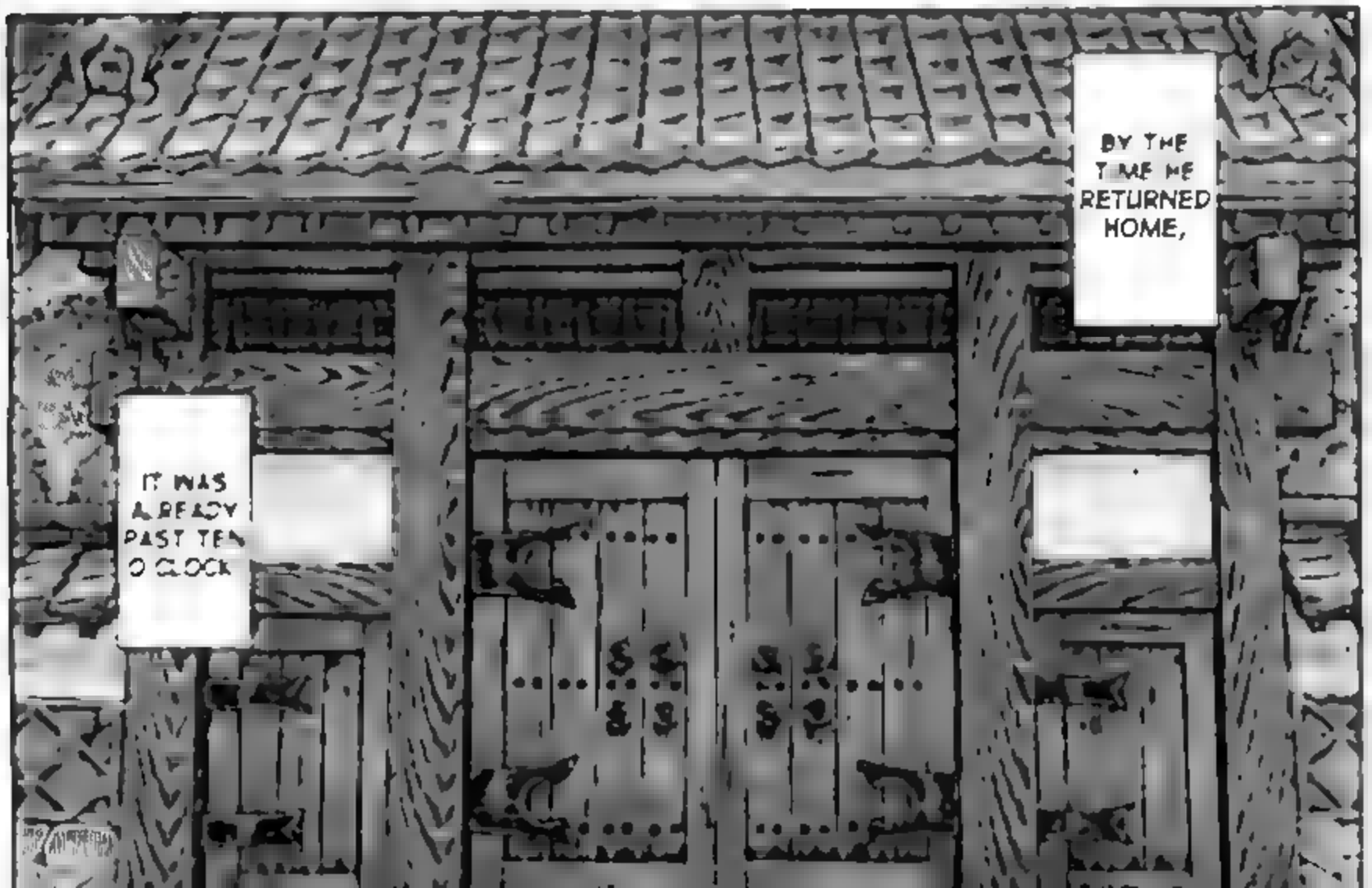
THAT DEMON.

CHAPTER 63
CLAIRVOYANCE

IN ORDER TO

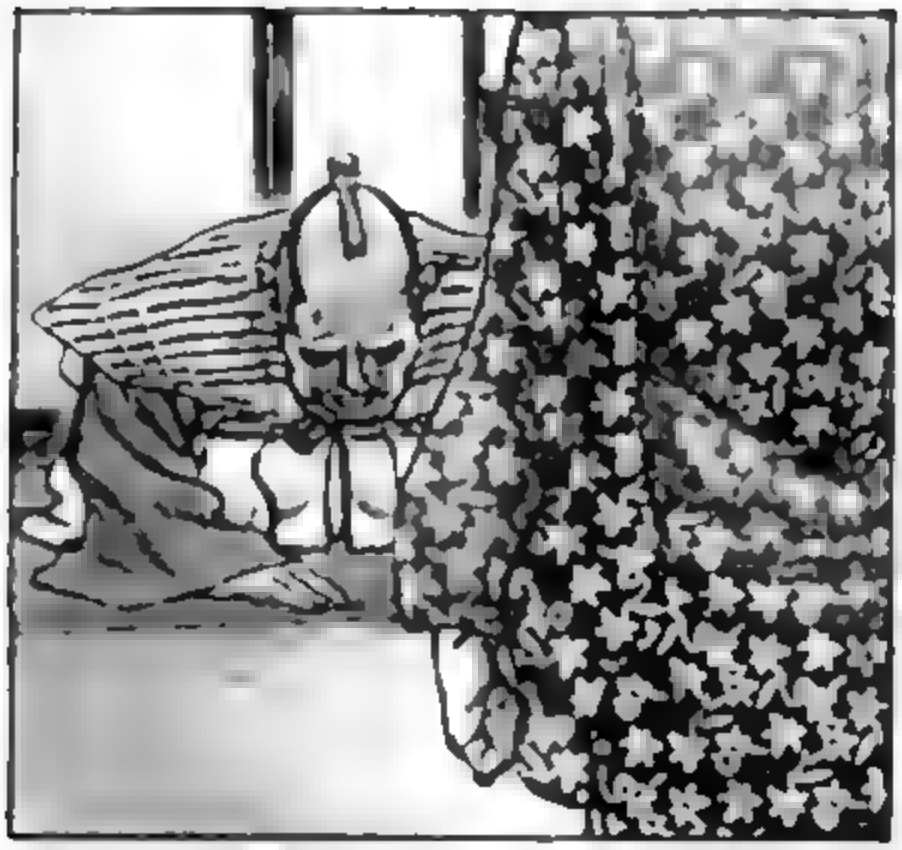


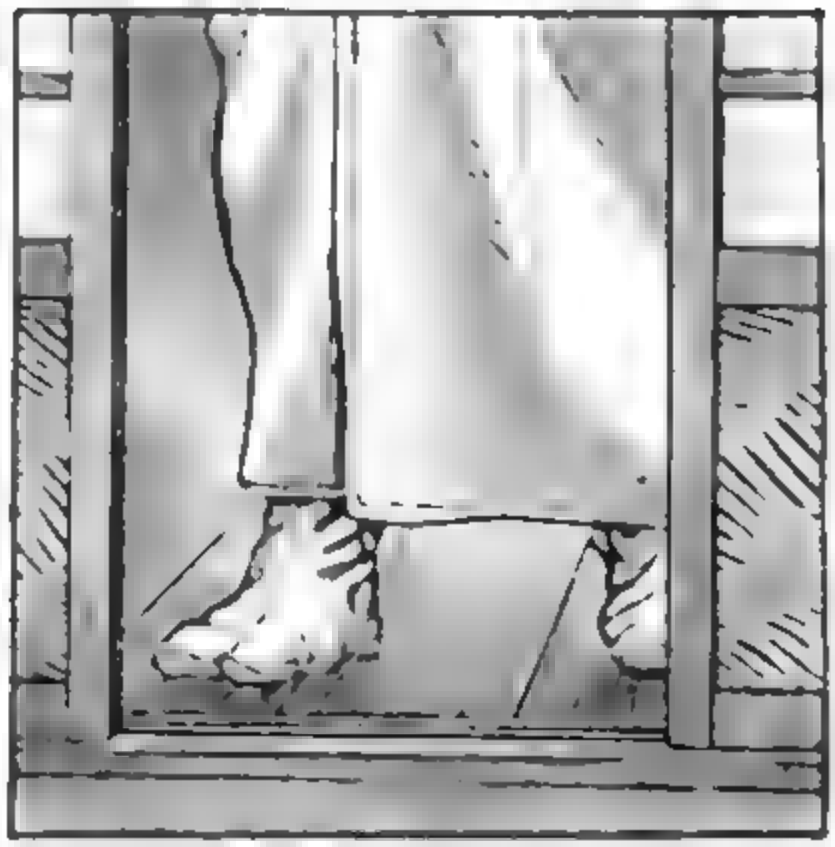

BUT WAS
SUDDENLY
ORDERED
TO THE
CASTLE


BY THE
TIME HE
RETURNED
HOME,
IT WAS
ALREADY
PAST TEN
O CLOCK

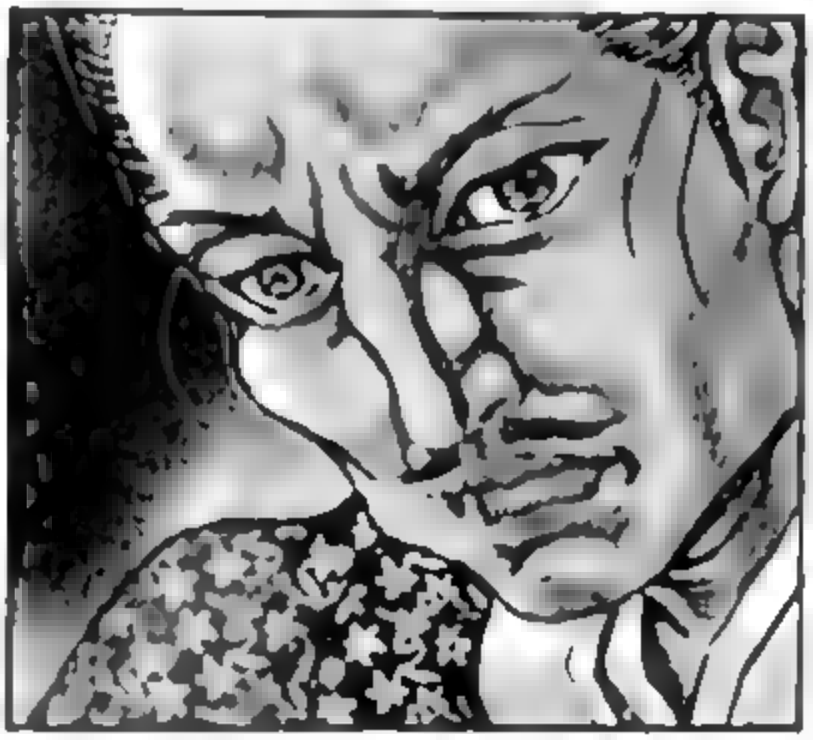
AWAITING HIM IN THE MAPLE ROOM.

WAS THE ENVOY MABUCHI GYOUBU-NOSUKE.





How is our lord?



The tournament at Snow Castle is to be held with real swords!

Such was the only conclusion!

Perhaps he was only speaking metaphorically, to encourage the contest-ants

ANYWAY, NARUTO...
WHAT OF TODAY'S MATCH?

I observed it with my own eyes!

Are you ready Shun'an?

HE IS STILL YOUNG ...

I MET FUJIKI GENNOSUKE ON THE WAY HERE.

IF YOU WISH TO TAKE VENGEANCE ON SEIGEN,

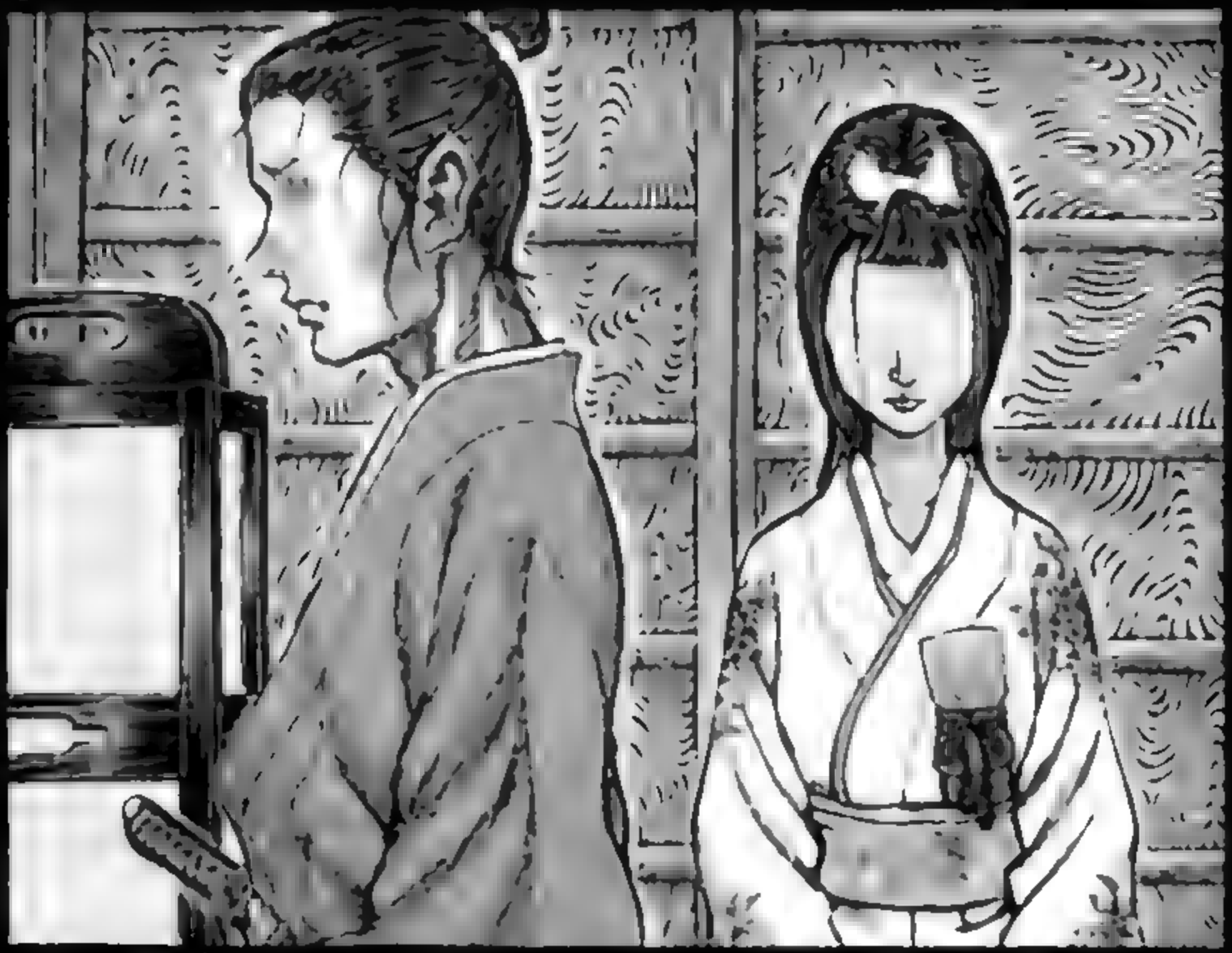
YOU MUST BE MERCILESS

I WILL NOT GO EASY ON HIM.

PREPARE YOURSELF!

FUJIKI GENNOSUKE, YOU WILL NOW TEST YOUR MIGHT!

DID YOU HEAR ME?



I TOLD YOU TO PREPARE YOUR-SELF!

YES, SIR.

SHUN'AN BOWED TO HIM

WHEN FUJIKI GENNOSUKE ENTERED THE DOJO,

HOSHIKAWA IKUNOSUKE OF TODA-RYUU WHO HAD BEEN NVITED TO SERVE AS REFEREE

OFFERED THEM A PAIR OF WOODEN SWORDS

I WILL FACE HIM UNARMED.

INDEED!

SHUN'AN NEEDED NO WEAPON...

AS THEY

HE WAS CERTAIN THE DIFFERENCE IN STRENGTH BETWEEN THEM,

WAS TOO GREAT

THIS IS AN UNEQUAL MATCH.

SHUN'AN TOOK HIS STANCE

LIKE A MOUNTAIN.

FUJIKI GENNOSUKE STEPPED FORWARD LIGHTLY

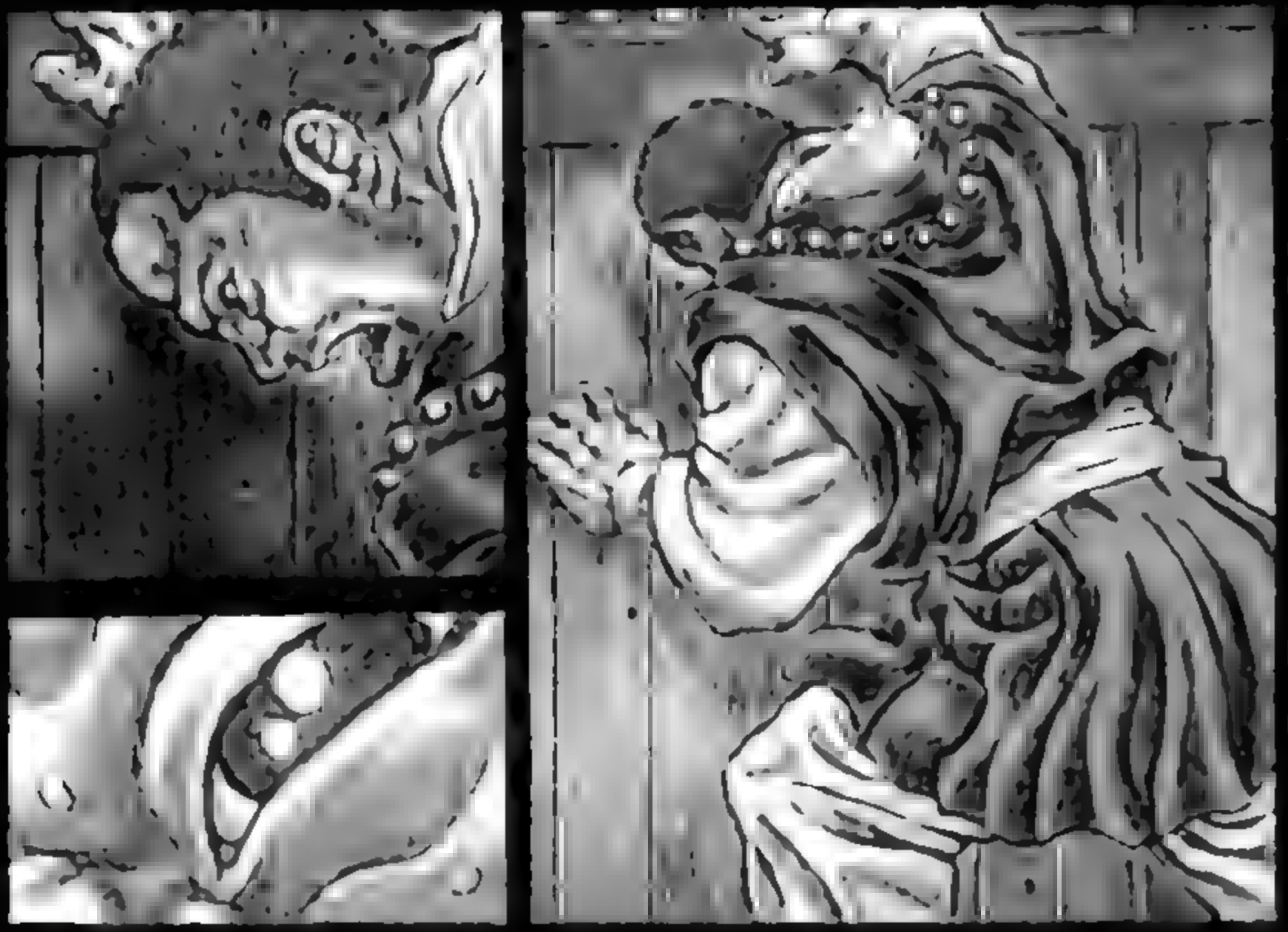
ONLY THE DISCERNING EYE OF ONE CERTIFIED IN TODA-RYUU,

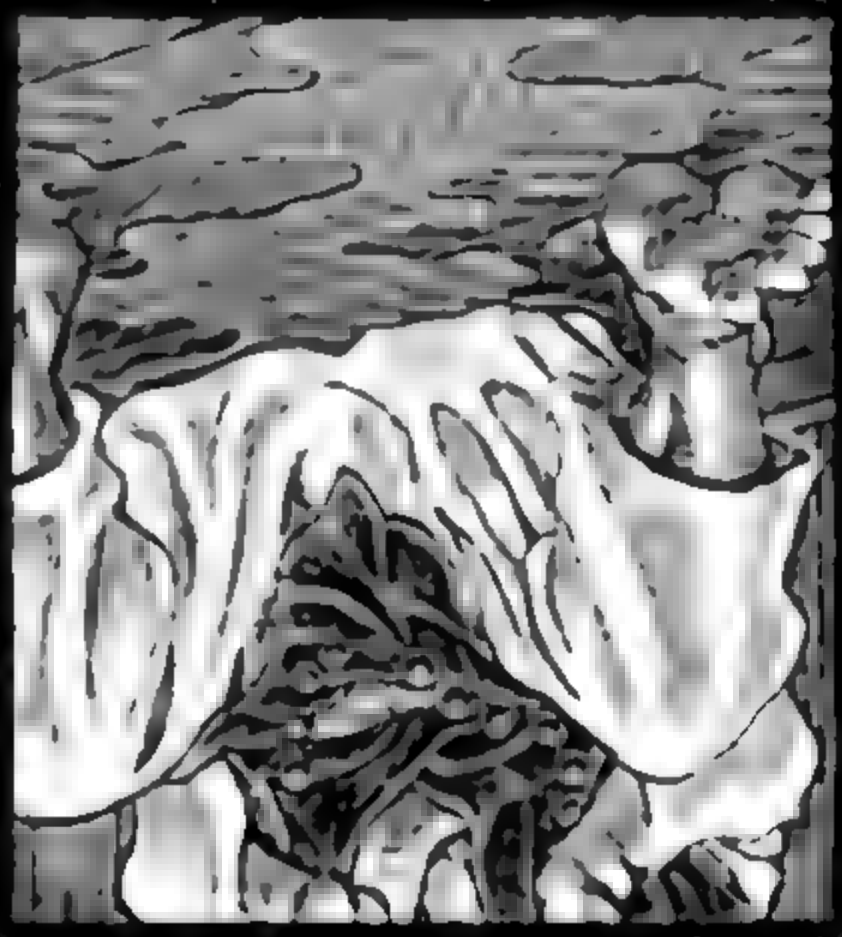
COULD PERCEIVE GENNOSUKE'S STRIKE

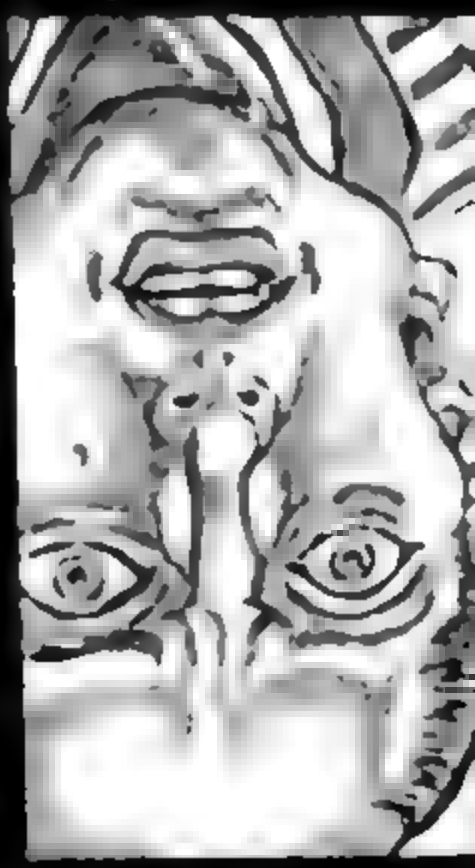
MABUCHI GYOUBUNOSUKE,

GASPED,

AS IF







I have no idea...

what he saw in Fujiki Gennosuke at that moment...

And Shun'an?

With one strike?

No. The strike was not the cause of death

He must have seen it

THE COUNTE-
NANCE OF ONE
WHO PEERS INTO
THE DARKNESS
WILL BE TRANS-
FORMED TO THAT
OF A DEMON

LURKING
WITHIN THE
RECESSES OF
EVERYMAN'S
SOUL IS A
DARKNESS
CALLED
"AVIDYA"*

*Avidya, a Buddhist term for

Just how much darkness is there in the depths of Fujiki Gennosuke's soul..?

I have heard that experts in kasshi jutsu have clairvoyant powers.

I-is Fujiki Gennosuke still within the estate?

Hoshikawa Ikunosuke has taken him in.

ON THE WAY HOME, MABUCHI GYOUBU-NOSUKE,

MET HIS END IN A FALL FROM HIS HORSE

Sign: Toda-ryuu Dou

CHAPTER 54
DISAPPEARANCE

A BACK STREET IN THE VILLAGE OF TOGIYA.

IKU-SAMA.

KOGAN-SENSEI SENDS FOR YOU.

RINSE YOUR MOUTH.

COME IN.

TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES.

FUJIKI GENNO-SUKE,

HAD JUST ENTERED THE KOGAN-RYUU DOJO

EVEN THE YOUNGEST STUDENTS IN KOGANRYU...

WE'VE SUBJECTED TO PITILESS TRAINING

A BROKEN RIB HAD PUNCTURED HIS LUNG

ONE STUDENT HAD SPIT BLOOD AND DROPPED DEAD IN THE STREET ON HIS WAY TO TOGIYA VILLAGE

SHE DISINFECTED WITH ALCOHOL

HIS LEFT HAND, WHICH WAS RUBBED RAW,

IKU CHECKED GENNOSUKE FOR BROKEN BONES

EAT.

IKU GAVE THE ORDER,

TO ENSURE HE ATE HIS FILL.

WHERE GENNOSUKE ATE.

SHE MENDED HIS CLOTHES

BECAUSE GENNOSUKE SPOKE SO LITTLE.

PEOPLE SAID HE LACKED FEELING.

WHEN IKU, THE CRUEL MISTRESS OF THE SONG, WALKED DOWN THE STREET
WITH GENNO-SUKE AND HIS SWOLLEN FACE
THE TOWNS-PEOPLE TURNED AWAY, SCOWLING

THE HEIR OF KOGAN-RYUU,

WILL CERTAINLY BE YOU, GENNOSUKE.

DESPITE HIS RETICENCE, THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG WITH HIM.

ZEJ WAS CERTAIN

GENNOSUKE BLUSHED FROM HIS NECK TO THE TIPS OF HIS EARS

HAD BECOME THICKLY CALLOUSED
BY THIS TIME GENNOSUKE'S LEFT HAND,

THE CEREMONY ON THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF KOGAN'S WIFE'S DEATH,

HAD ONLY JUST ENDED

KOGAN-SENSEI SENDS FOR YOU.

IKU-SAMA.

LET US MAKE HASTE.

I must wash my face.

Please wait a moment.

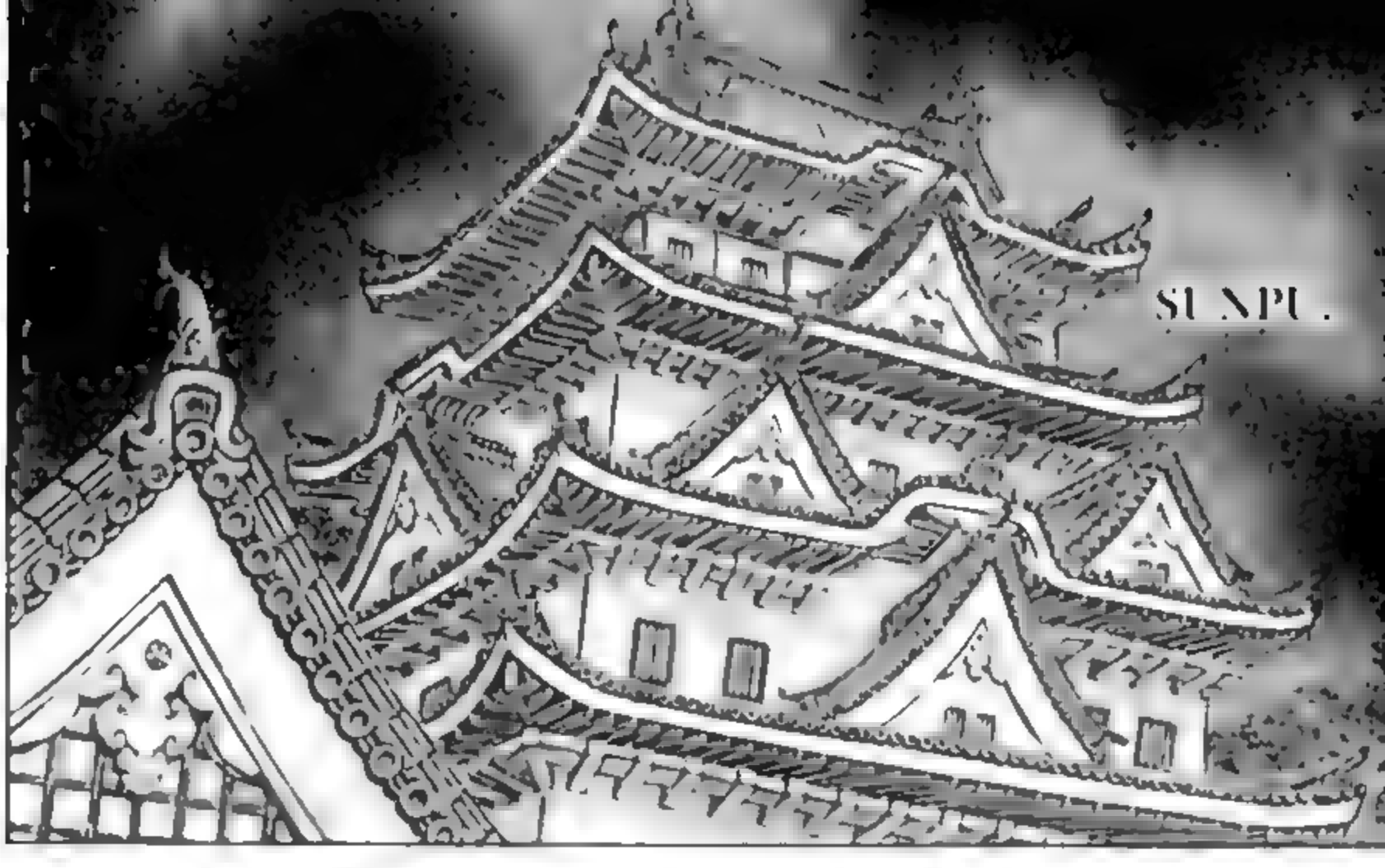
THOSE

JUST
ONE
FEELING
THE
DAYS
OF THE
SUN

THROUGH
CLOSED
EYES

EVEN
WITH MY
EYES
CLOSED

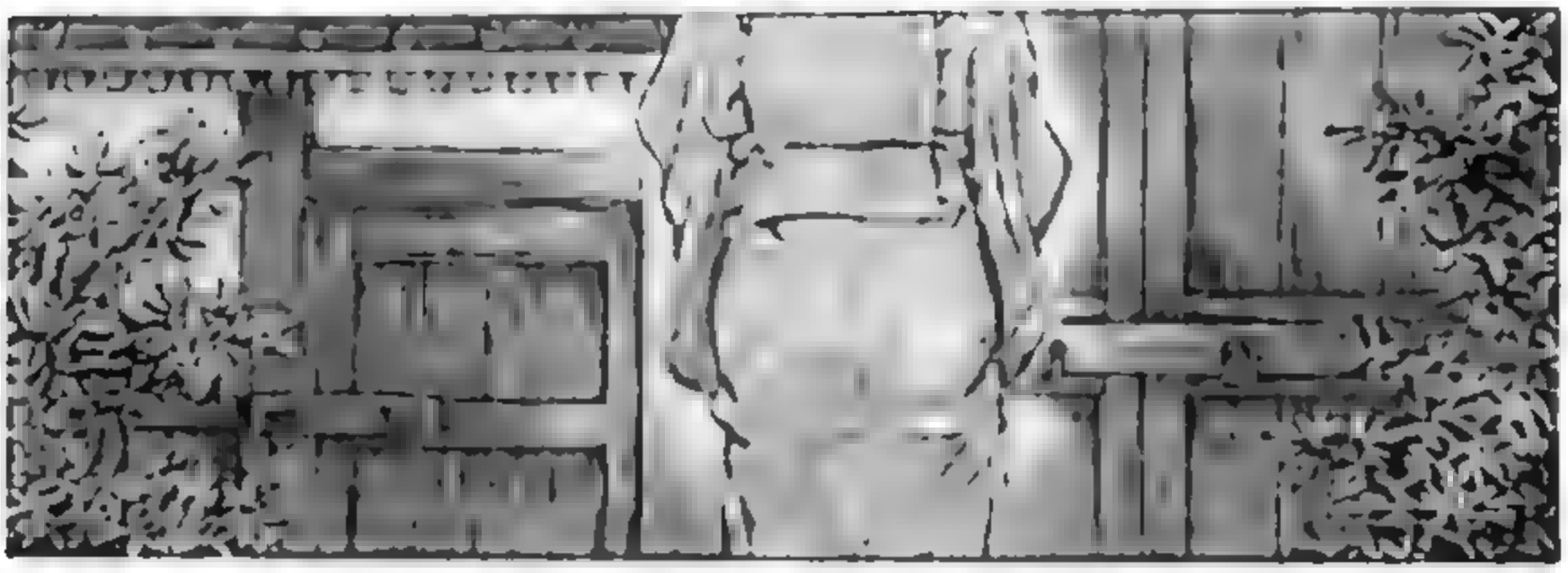
I
FELT A
FRAGRANT
WARMTH


SUNPU

FUJIKI-
DONO

THIS
CLOSE
TO SUNPU
CASTLE
AND THE
SHOGUN
LORD
TOKUGAWA

YOU MUST
NOT DRAW
YOUR SWORD
FOR ANY
REASON.



Fujiki Gennosuke

Iku-sama

HOW-
EVER,

IT WAS AN UNEX-PECTED REUNION,

AND THE WHITE BACK FROM WHICH GENNOSUKE HAD AVERTED HIS GAZE, LIKEWISE, HAD DISAPPEARED

THE LEFT HAND THAT IKU HAD TREATED WAS GONE, ALONG WITH THE ARM TO THE SHOULDER!

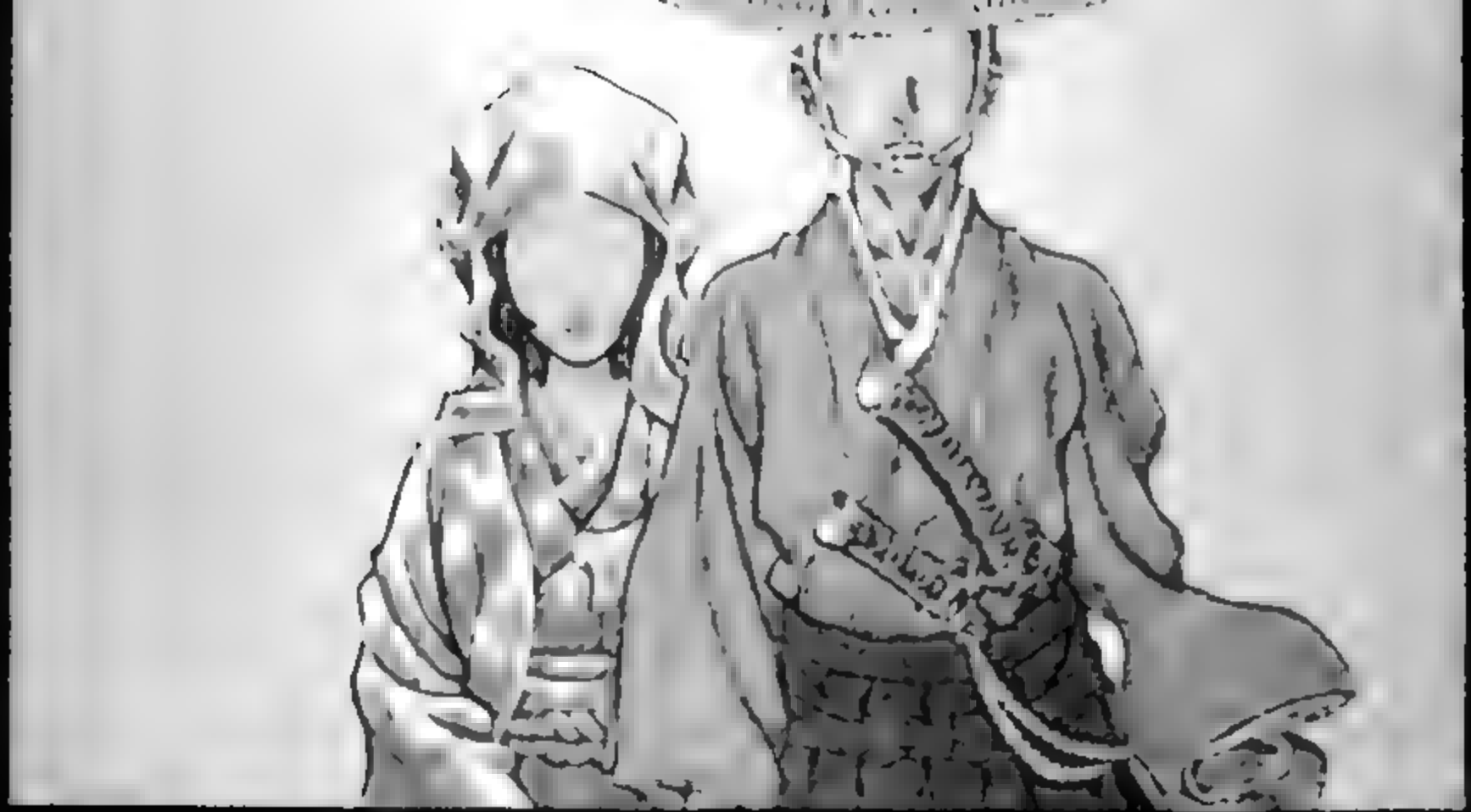
IKU-
DONO!

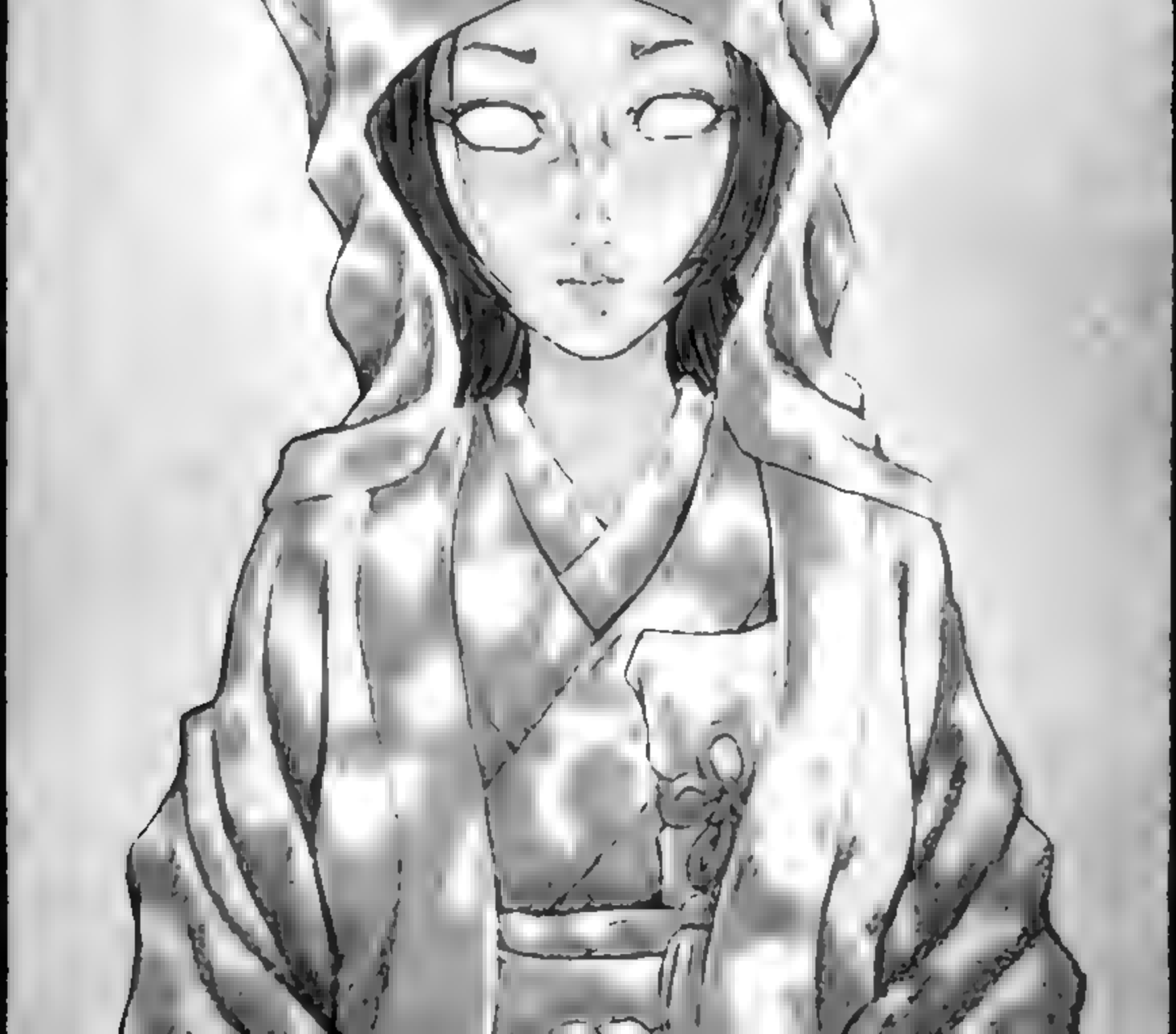
TSUKIOKA
WAS
MOSHIKANA
IKUNO-
SUKE'S
FORMER
NAME

Tsu-
kiokako-
ama,
shal

LET ME
EXPLAIN
...

IKU-
DONO!





UGH!

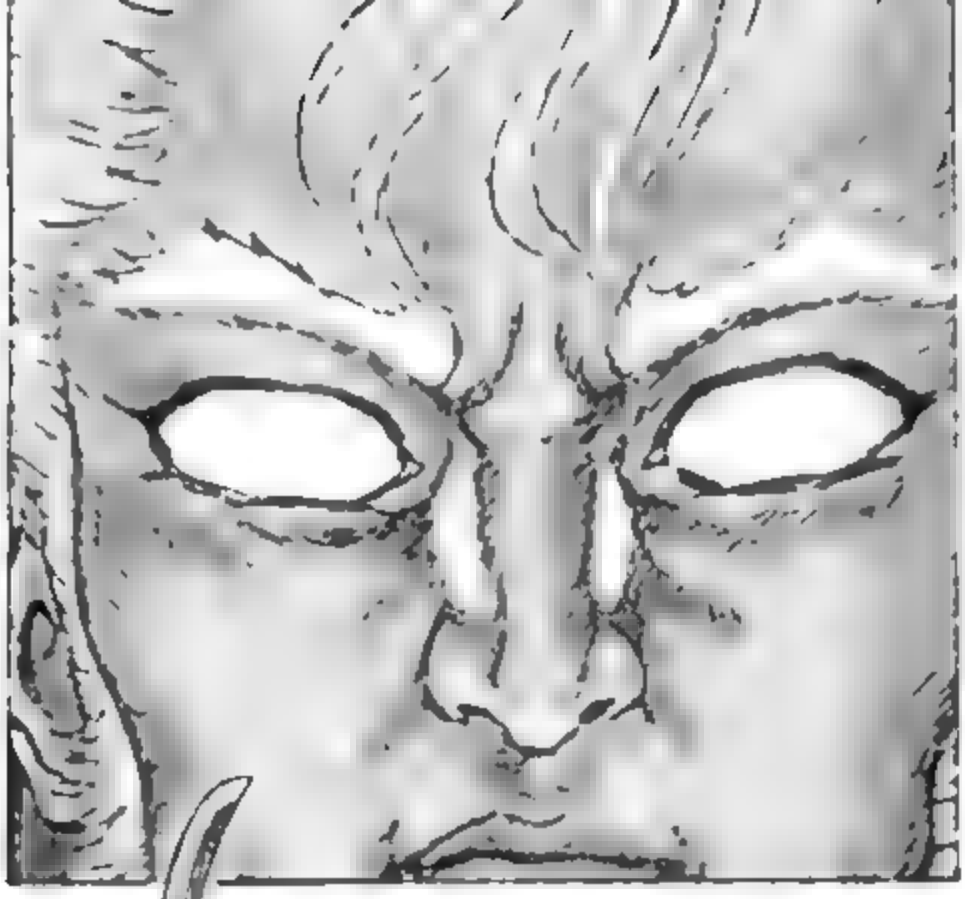
WHA...

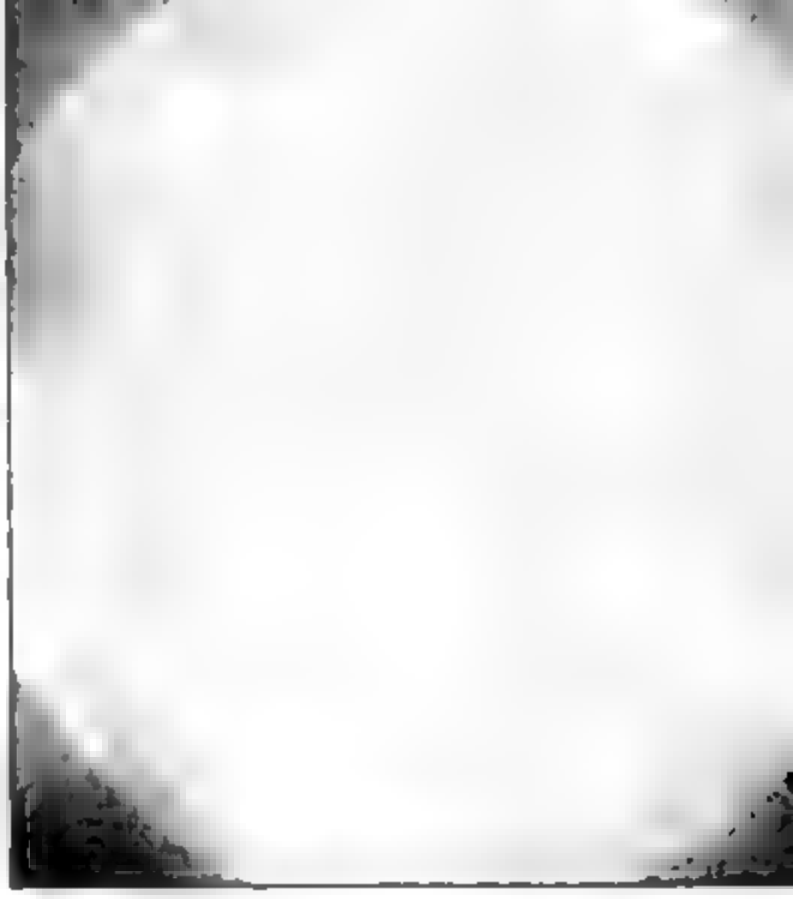
DID GENNOSUKE DRAW HIS SWORD HIMSELF?
OR DID THE MAIDEN CAUSE HIM TO DO IT?

S-
STOP!

PLEASE...

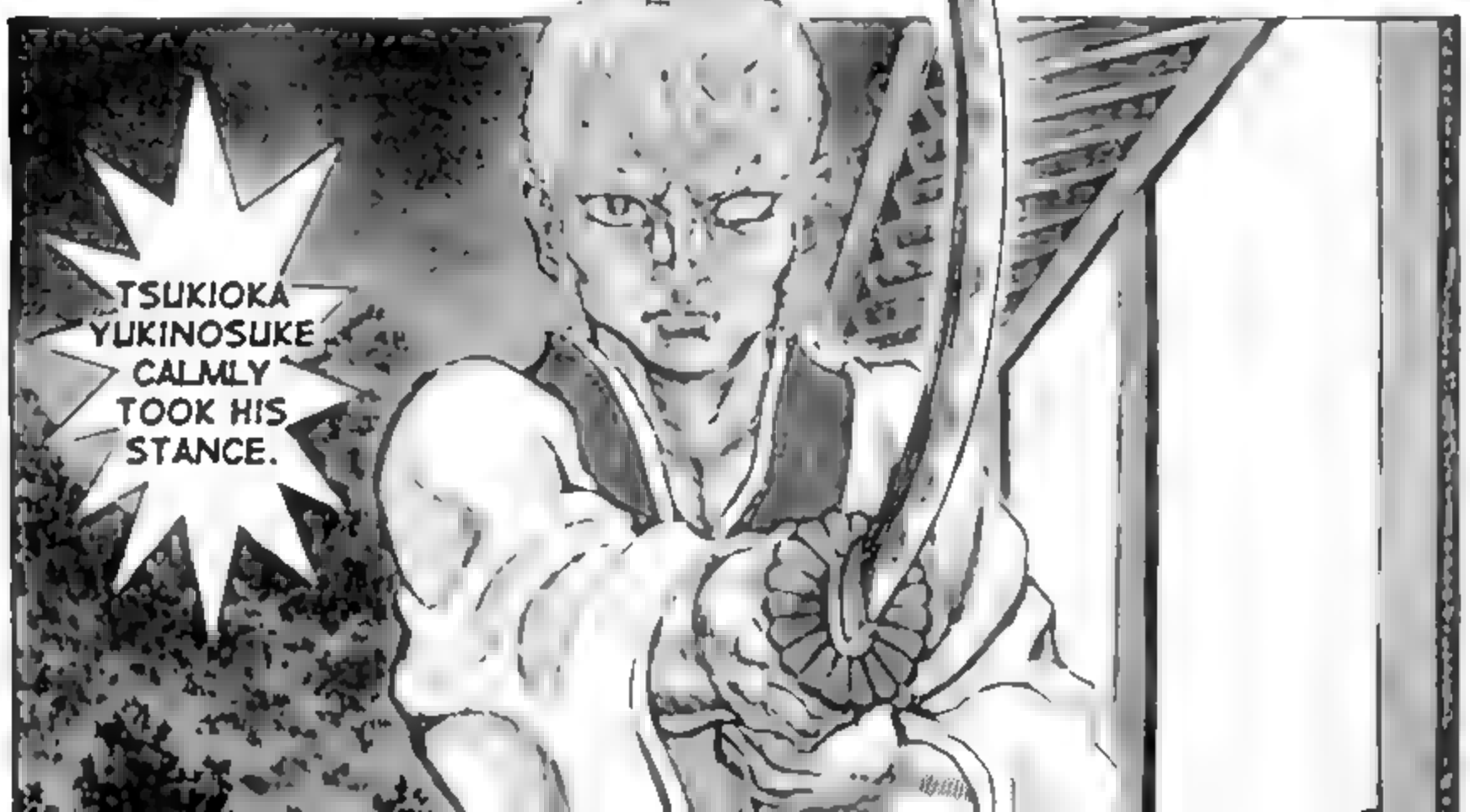
AAH...





CHAPTER 65
THE DEAD

CONFRONTED BY THE SWORDSMAN OF NOUBI'S UNRIVALED KOGAN-RYUU.


TSUKIOKA YUKINOSUKE CALMLY TOOK HIS STANCE.

THIS EVEN-TEMPERED AND MILD-MANNERED MAN,

EVEN IN PEACETIME, HAD STAINED HIS SWORD WITH BLOOD,

NO LESS THAN FIVE TIMES.

EVEN THOUGH HE HAD NO WISH TO KILL,

HE HAD LEFT HIS HOME-TOWN TO ESCAPE ONE WHO BORE A GRUDGE AGAINST HIM,

HE WAS FORCED TO ACCEDE TO CIRCUM-STANCES.

AND CHANGED HIS NAME TO HOSHIKAWA IKUNOSUKE.

blade flat, no killing, Tsukioka's technique
th the back of the sword

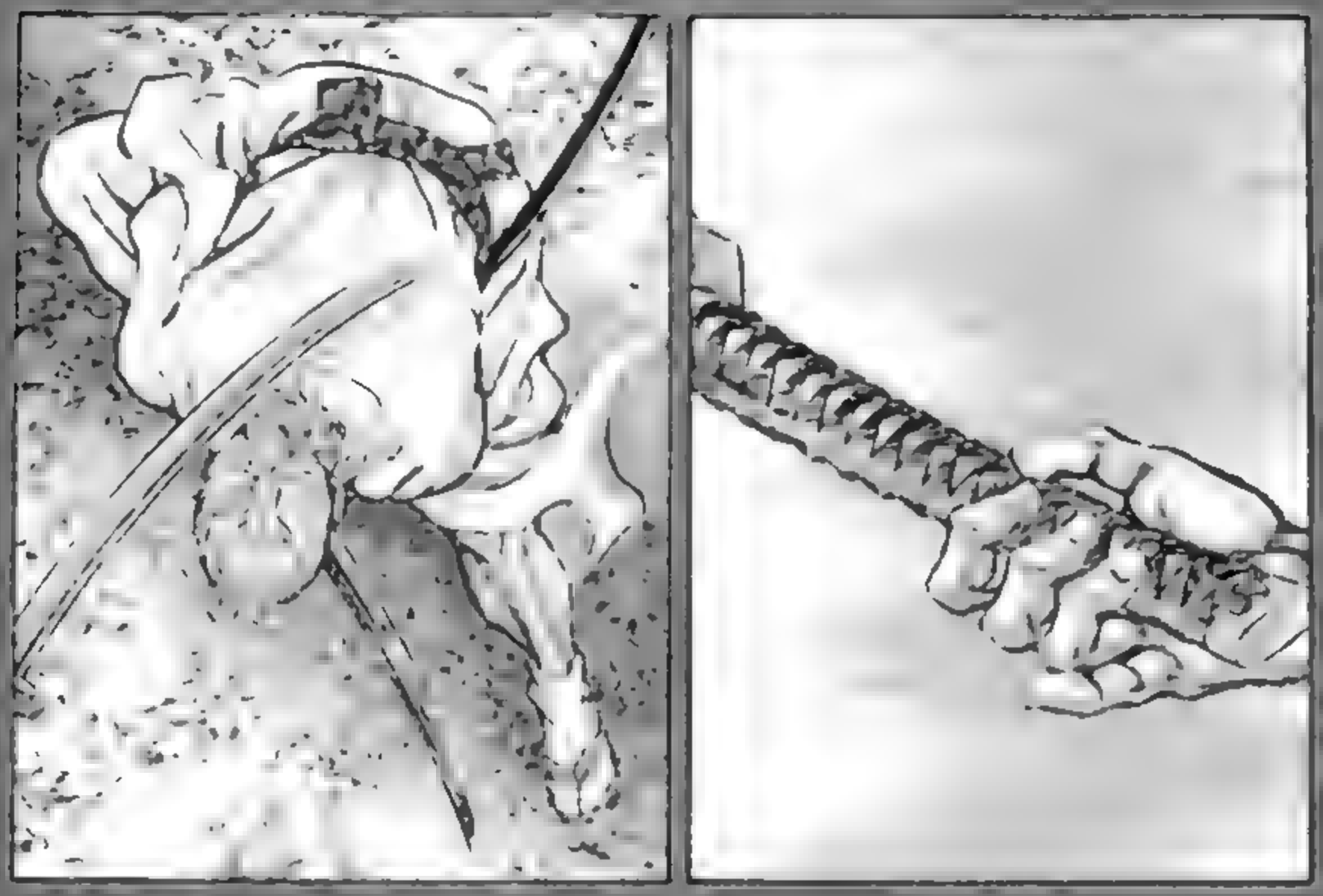
HE'S TOUGH ...

WILL MUNEICHI FUSATSU* BE FAST ENOUGH?

EVEN —FACING A DISCIPLE OF KOGAN-RYUU,

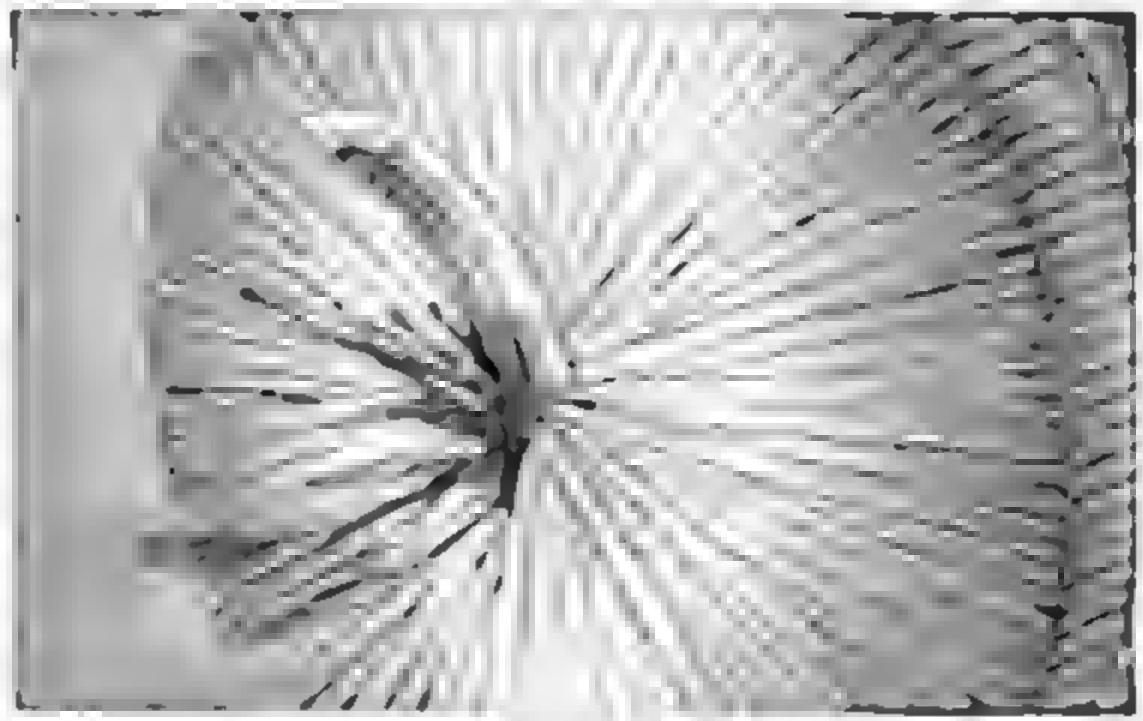
TSUKIOKA WAS SURELY THE ONLY ONE AMONG ALL THE SWORDSMEN IN THE WORLD,

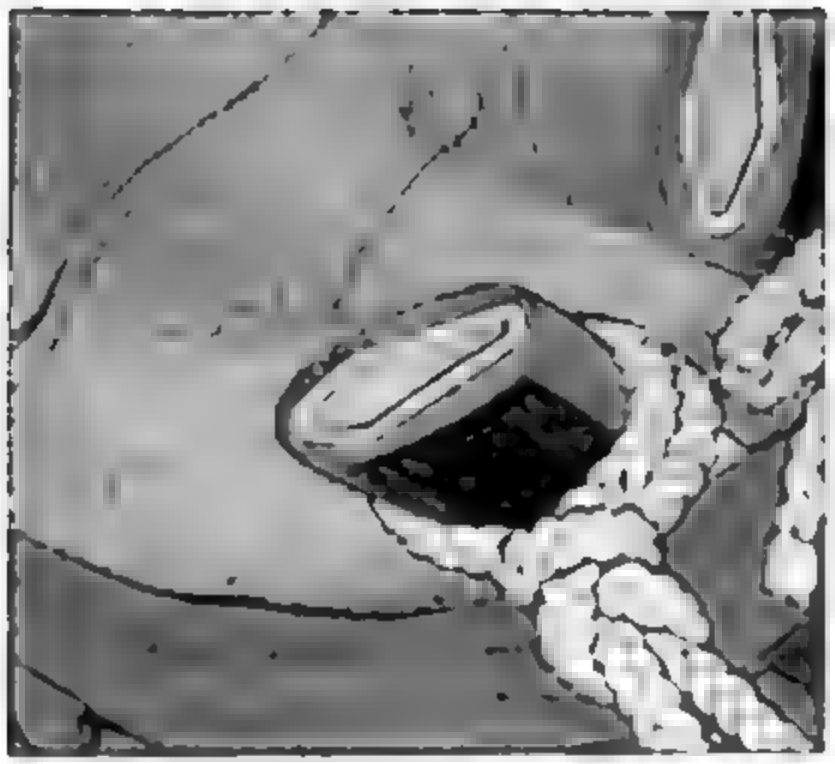
MORE AFRAID OF KILLING THAN OF BEING KILLED.



HE COULD NOT STRIKE AGAIN WITH THE LONG SWORD.

ONCE HE HAD COMPLETED THE "NAGARE" STRIKE,





AND USED HIS SHORT SWORD FOR "NAKAGO UKE."*

GENNOSUKE THREW AWAY HIS LONG SWORD,

*Literally, receiving the inner blade.

WITH A TWIST OF HIS BLADE,,

TSUKIOKA WRENCHED THE SHORT SWORD FROM HIS HAND

ARE YOU IRAKO SEIGEN'S LACKEY?

THE BLADE PRESSED TO H'S THROAT.

WAS TSUKI-OKA'S OWN SHORT SWORD

DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS...

IRAKO-SAMA WAS THE VICTOR.

WHY SHOULD HE GO CHASING AFTER YOU?

AFTER AN
OFFICIALLY
AUTHORIZED
VENGEANCE
MATCH WAS

I HAD THOUGHT,

THIS MIGHT BE THE BUDDHA'S WAY OF UNRAVELING THE BONDS OF HATRED BETWEEN YOU.

IRAKO SEIGEN-DONO ASKED ME TO TAKE CARE OF IKU-DONO.

AND NOW THE CHAMBERLAIN SAEGUSA-SAMA HAS ORDERED ME TO LOOK AFTER FUJIKI GENNOSUKE-DONO.

THOSE TWO...

THEY LOOK LIKE THEY HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM THE DEAD...

IS IT TRUE THAT IRAKO-SAMA'S OPPONENT FOR THE TOURNAMENT AT SUNPU CASTLE,

IS TO BE FUJIKI GENNO-SUKE?

BUT,

THAT ONE-ARMED SWORDS-MAN,

I AM NOT SURE.

he did not hesitate to discard his sword, which is the soul of a samurai.

when he realized his blade was of no use to him,

I could tell that his spirit never wavered.

Even with such daring tactics,

And when he saw a chance, even grabbed the blade of his opponent.

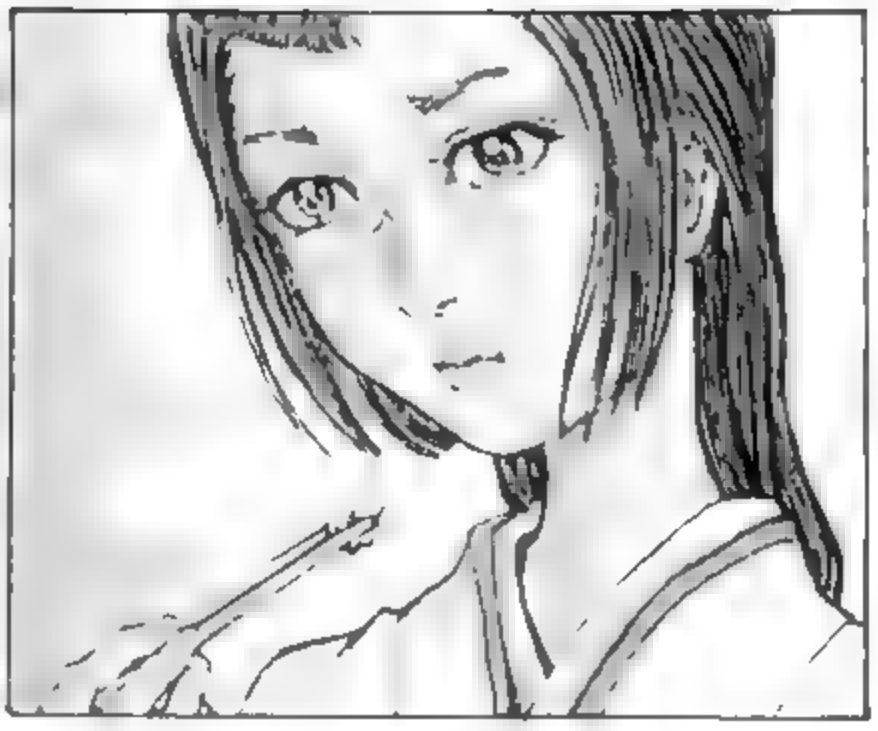
He truly is a monster

IN A GUEST ROOM FACING THE GARDEN,

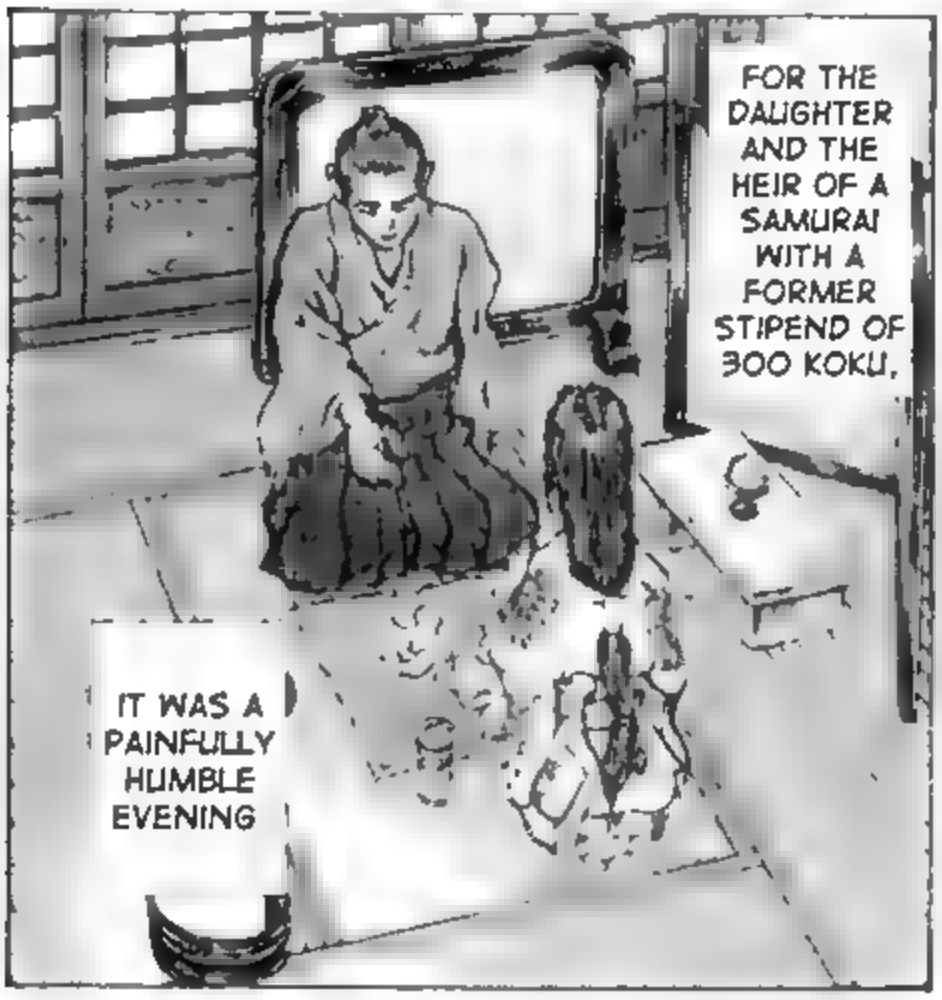
THE MAIDEN AND THE SWORDSMAN SETTLED IN FOR THE NIGHT.

SEPA-RATED FROM TSUKIOKA IN THE CHAPEL,

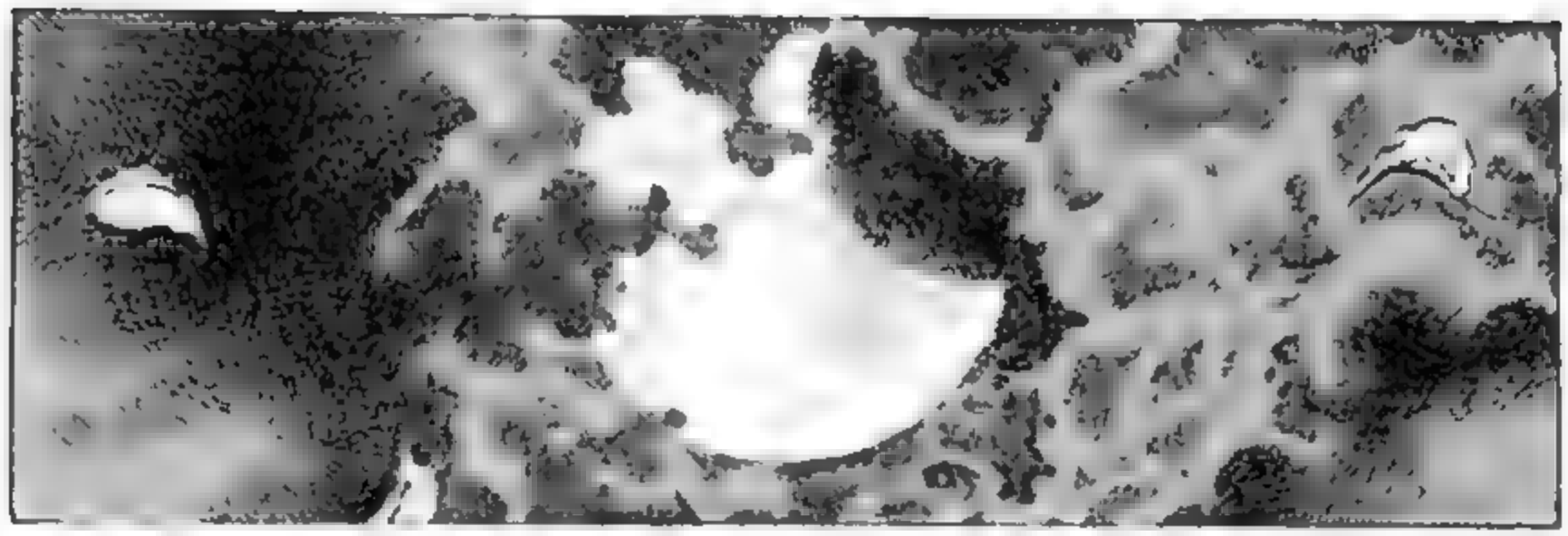
BY THE KITCHEN AND A SIX-MAT ROOM,

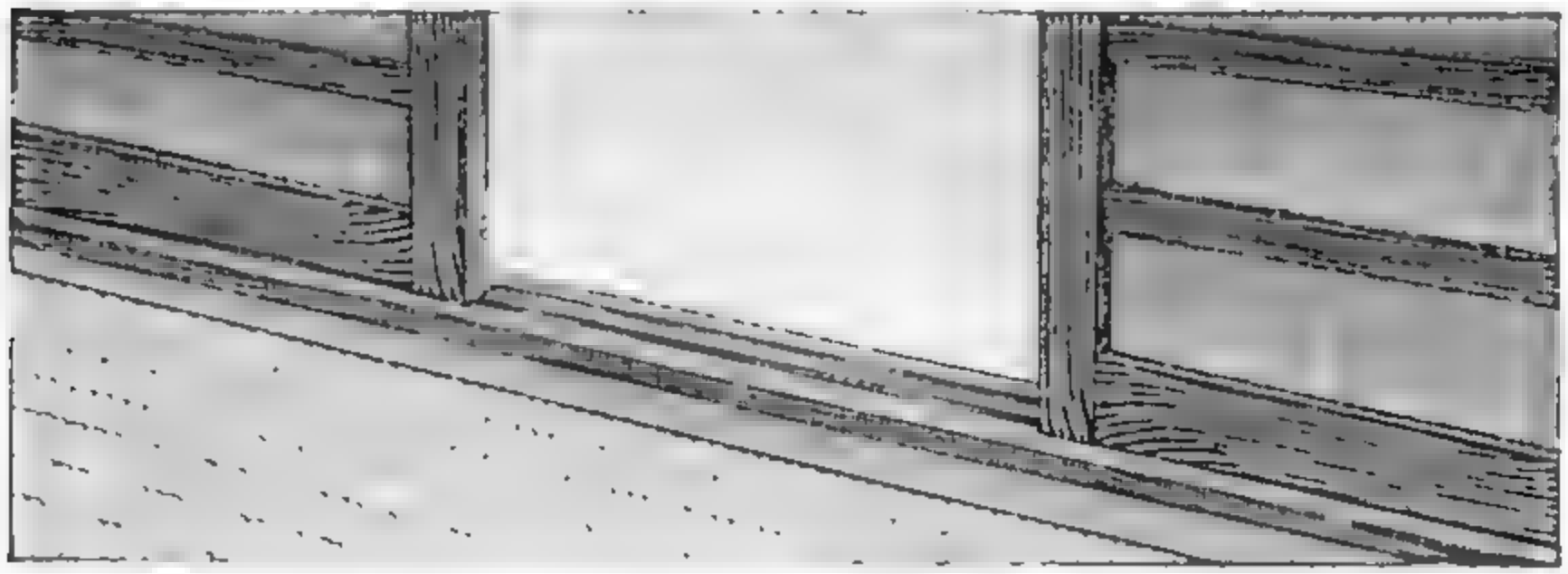


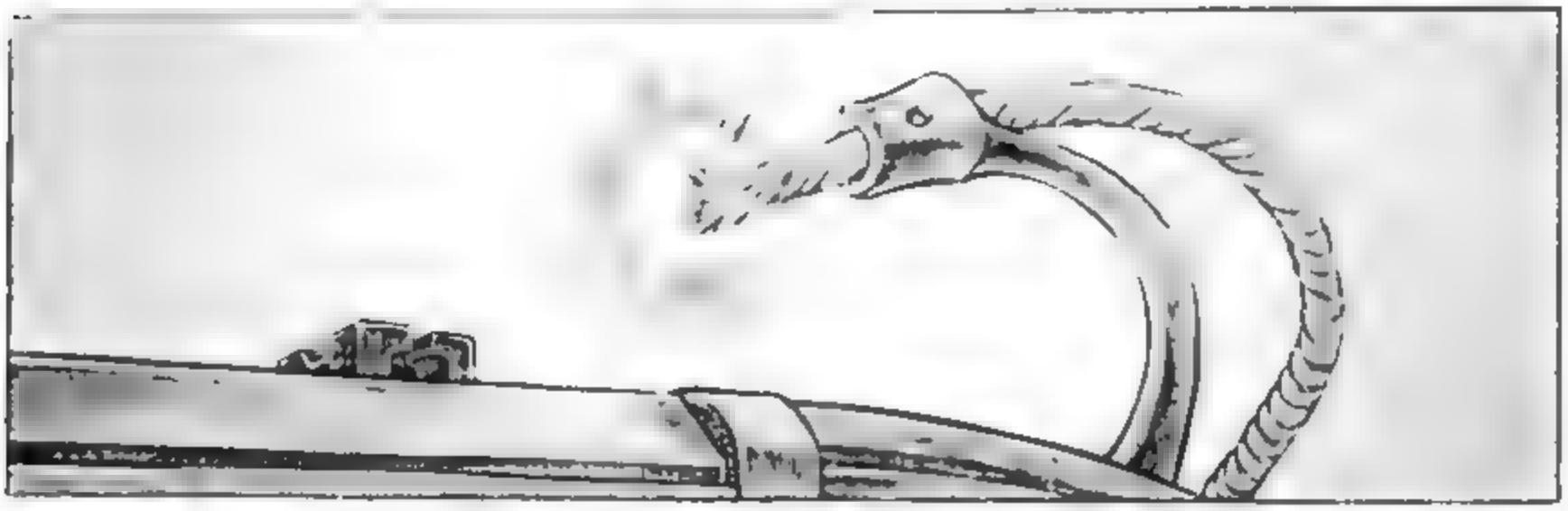
LEFTOVERS THEY HAD BROUGHT FROM THE CHAMBER-LAIN'S ESTATE.
THEY WERE EATING,


FOR THE DAUGHTER AND THE HEIR OF A SAMURAI WITH A FORMER STIPEND OF 300 KOKU.
IT WAS A PAINFULLY HUMBLE EVENING

THE OFFER-ING,
WAS FOR THE DEPARTED MASTER IWAMOTO KOGAN.







THE GUN WAS POINTED,

DIRECTLY AT THE MAIDEN

IKU...

THE MAIDEN CONTROLLED THE TIGER,

WITH A SINGLE LOOK

SHE COULD SEE THAT IT WAS MIE WHO WANTED HER DEAD.

IKU.

DID YOU COMMIT ADULTERY WITH IRAKO SEIGEN?

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

I SWEAR.

REALLY?

Do you think my eyes are knotholes?

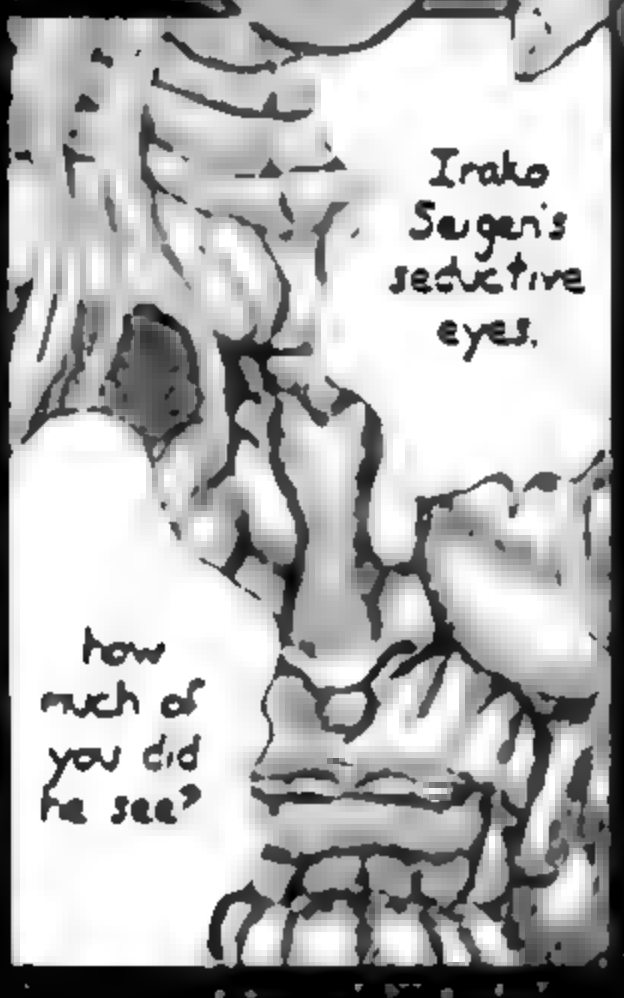
IT WAS NOT THE MAIDEN'S VOICE

A HOARSE GROAN,

AS IF FROM BENEATH THE GROUND

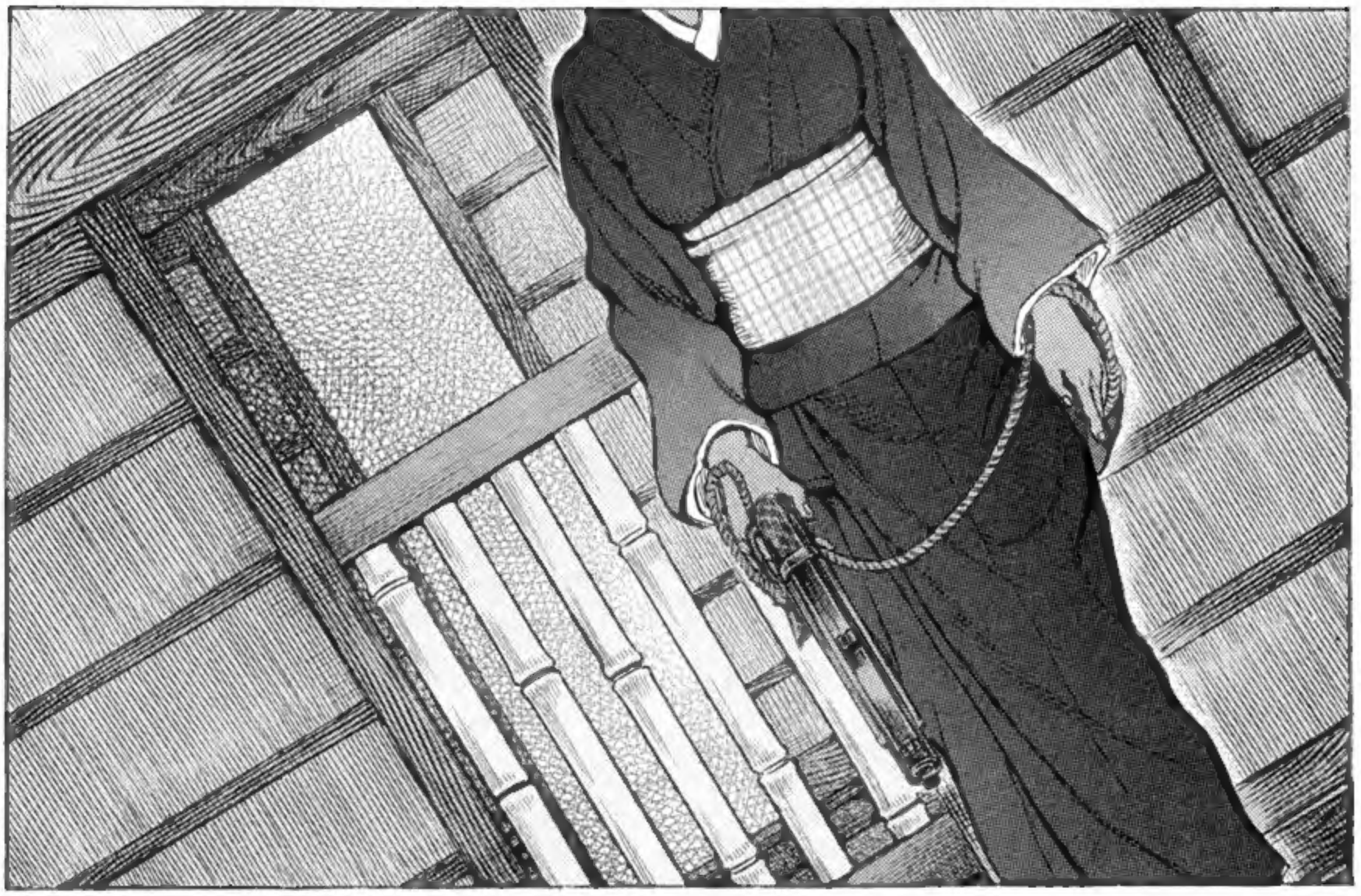
NOR WAS IT FUJIKI GENNOSUKE'S VOICE

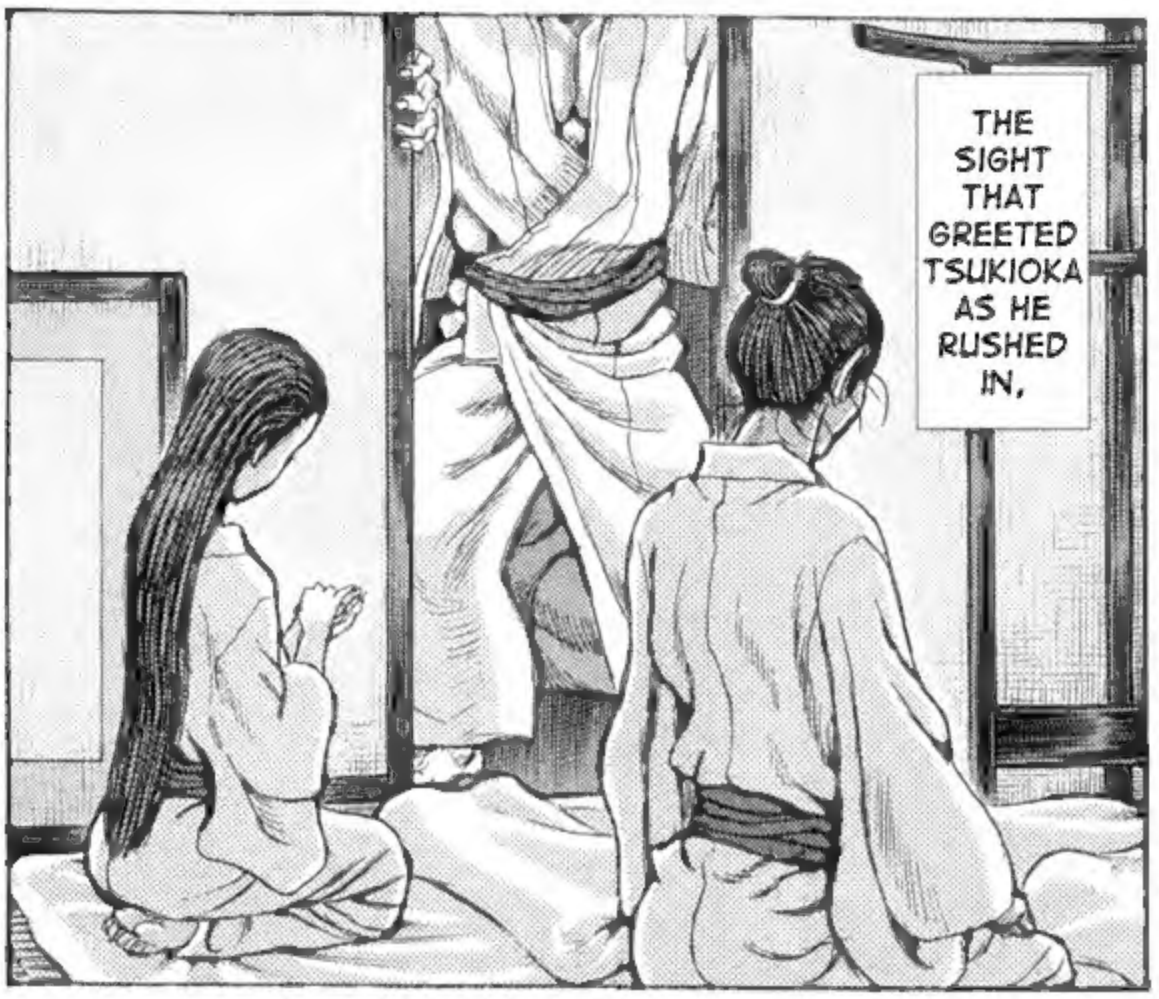
With his sweet breath
what did he whisper to you?


Iraka Saigen's seductive eyes.
how much of you did he see?

BITCH!

YOU BETRAYED ME!




THE SIGHT THAT GREETED TSUKIOKA AS HE RUSHED IN,

SMOKE RISING FROM A BULLET HOLE IN FUJIKI GENNOSUKE'S LEFT SLEEVE,

AND THE MAIDEN APPLYING LIPSTICK.

MEAN-WHILE,

AT THE ESTATE OF OKAKURA BOKUSAI, BELOW SUNPU CASTLE.

"SHIGURUI" Vol.12 / END